MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

Q.E.D.

……証明終了……

Quod Erat Demonstrandum

加藤元浩

Motohiro Katou

6

KCGM722

Q.E.D.

……証明終了

6

Kana Mizuhara

MOTOHIRO KATOU

加藤元浩

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Quod

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

Q.E.D.

Erat

Demonstrandum

6

ワタシノキオク…

青の密室

Q.E.D.1
ミネルヴァの扉／銀の雫
Q.E.D.2
六部の宝／ロスト・ロワイヤル
Q.E.D.3
ブレイク・スルー／狙われた星図
Q.E.D.4
1st.April,1999／ヤコブの階段
Q.E.D.5
歪んだ旋律／光の残像
Q.E.D.6
ワタシノキオク／青の断章

漫画に描く舞台に、よく取材に行きます。行くと色んな新しい事を知ることになります。

ふと　本当に色んな事を知ってるのは、旅人なのかな？　と思いました。燈馬君はＭＩＴを出て、旅人になろうとしたのかもしれませんね。

加藤元浩

カバーデザイン／朝倉健司

Q.E.D. 6

証明終了

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Q.E.D.
証明終了
6

加藤元浩

講談社

加藤元浩

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

I solve every case

based on clues and evidence...

Q.E.D.

証明終了

6

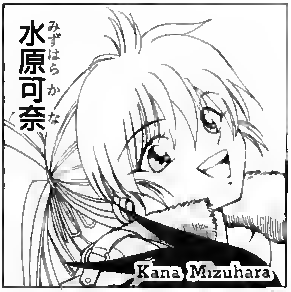
加藤元浩
MOTOHIRO KATOU

contents

Uncertain Memories ... 005

Secret Blue Room ... 109

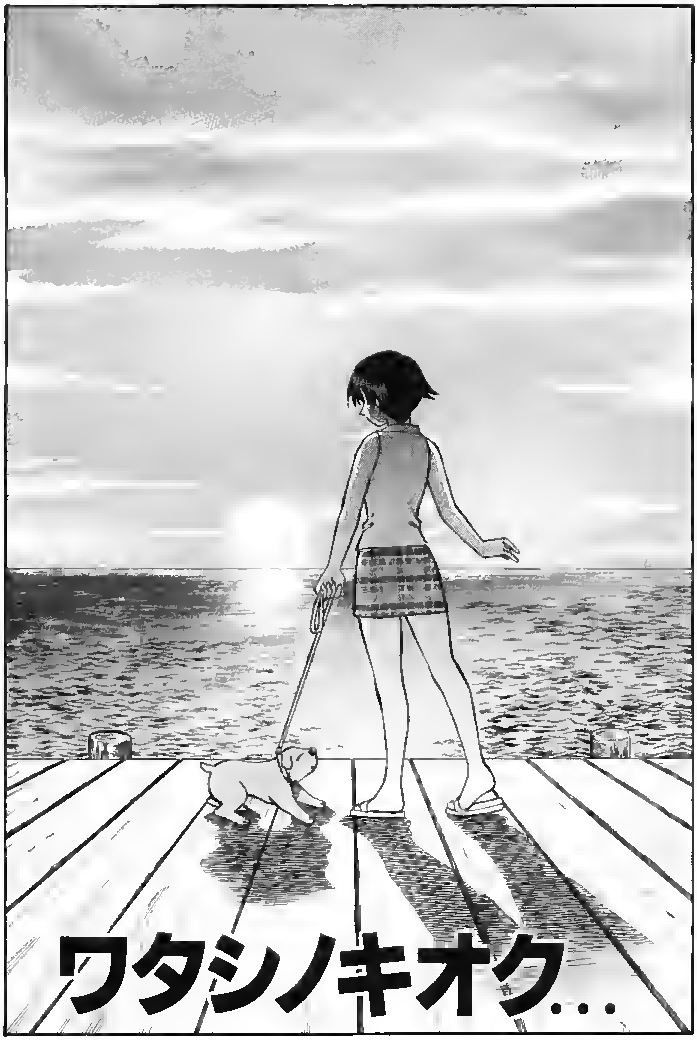
CHARACTERS

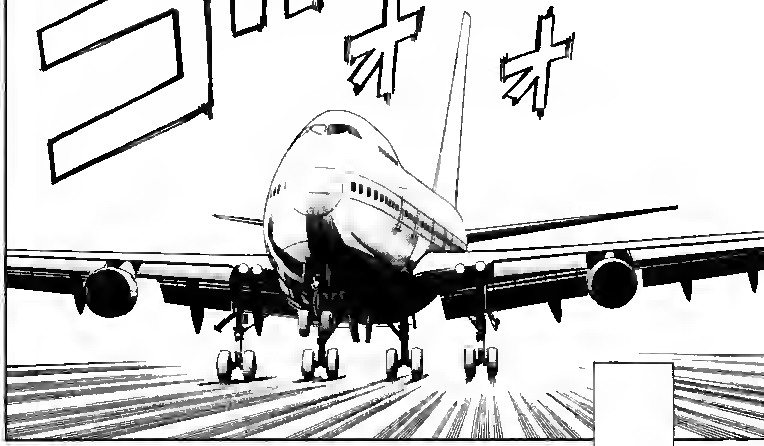


燈馬のクラスメイト。刑事を父に持つ。男勝りの行動力と、脳天気なまでの明るさがウリの、健康優良女子高生。

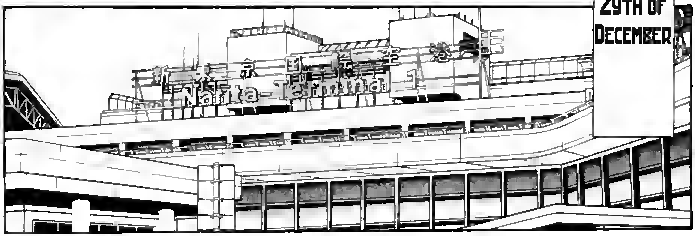
マサチューセッツ工科大学を15歳にして卒業、日本の高校に再入学した超天才児。多方面に豊富な知識を有する反面、人間の感情には疎い。

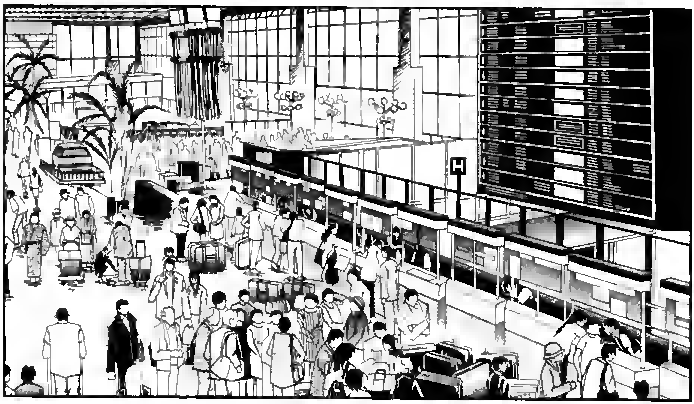
証明終了


ワタシノキオク…



29TH OF DECEMBER

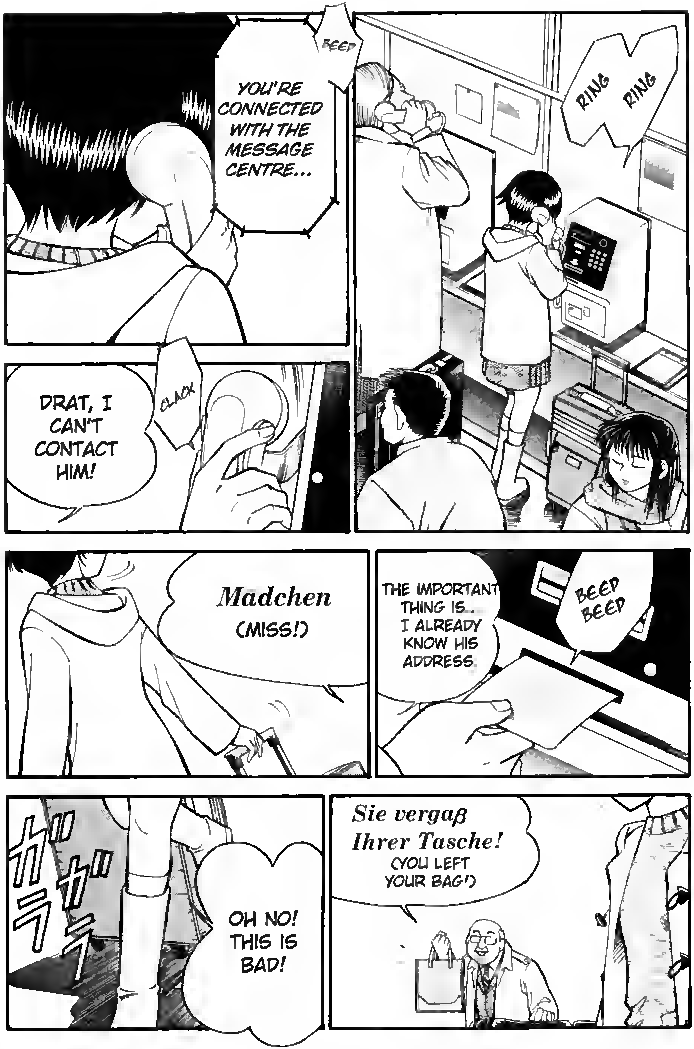




★

IS IT THAT ONE?
NO!
OR.. THAT ONE?
NO!
WHAT ABOUT THAT ONE?
MIZUHARA -SAN!
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE HERE! PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB ME!

LOOK AT THAT! WHEN IT'S THIS CLOSE TO NEW YEAR'S, IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO LOOK FOR ONE PERSON!
I ONLY WANT TO HELP YOU LOOK FOR THEM...
HOW CRUEL! CALLING ME A DISTURBANCE!
FU FU FU...
WHAT DO YOU WANT EXACTLY?
HO ...
IT'S GOOD THAT I'M WILLING TO HELP ...
WHAT KIND OF PERSON TOUMA-KUN'S LITTLE SISTER IS.
I WANT TO HURRY UP AND SEE ...

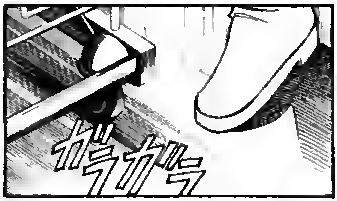

BEEP
YOU'RE CONNECTED WITH THE MESSAGE CENTRE...
RING RING
DRAT, I CAN'T CONTACT HIM!
CLACK
Madchen (MISS!)
THE IMPORTANT THING IS.. I ALREADY KNOW HIS ADDRESS.
BEEP BEEP
OH NO! THIS IS BAD!
Sie vergaß Ihrer Tasche! (YOU LEFT YOUR BAG!)

Danke schon!
(THANK YOU!)
THIS IS NOT GOOD ...
I'M BEING CLUMSY AGAIN ...

WHY HAVE I BECOME THIS FORGETFUL...? EVEN THOUGH I'VE TRIED TO BE CAREFUL...
THIS IS BAD...
THIS WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!
FROM NOW ON!
IF I TRY, I CAN DO IT!
THE IMPORTANT THING NOW IS THAT I'M ALREADY HERE ...
LET ME CHECK THE ADDRESS FIRST...
HUH?
HUUH?
HUHH !?
小姐!! 手册
(MISS! HERE'S THE NOTE-BOOK!)
多謝!
多謝!
(THANK YOU! THANK YOU!)
TAP TAP TAP
BOW

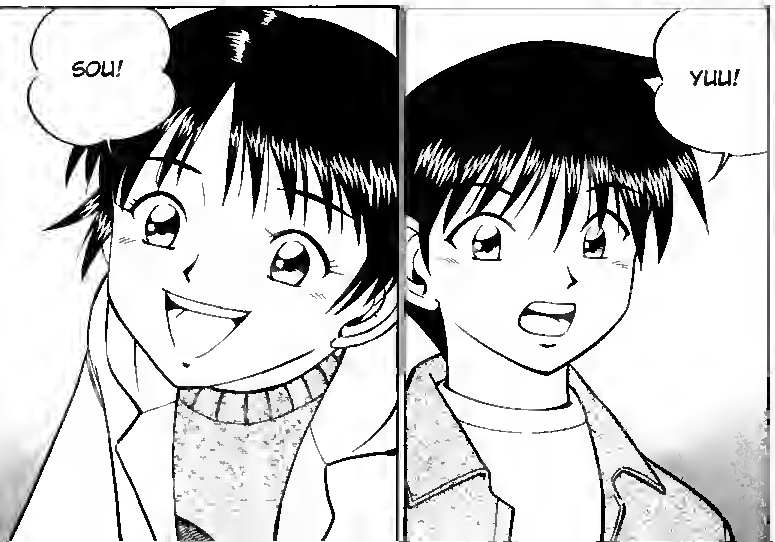
HE'S FROM BEIJING, SO HE WOULD SAY 'DUO XIE', BUT IF IT'S CANTONESE IT BECOMES 'DO JIE'. THOSE TWO LANGUAGES ARE OFTEN USED BY PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG. BUT IT TURNS OUT THAT THE PRONUNCIATION IS DIFFERENT FROM JAPANESE, HUH...
HAH
(HAH)

UUH.. WHAT AM I DOING?


ガラガラ

WOAH!!

HA HA.. THANK YOU
YOU'RE NOT HURT?
OW OW OW ...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
SVENSKA


SOU!
YUU!

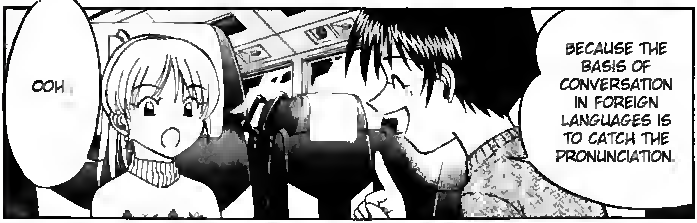
SOU IS CRUEL!
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU SAID THAT WE SHOULD MEET IN THAT PACKED AIRPORT.
YOU SHOULD'VE CHOSEN SOMEWHERE LESS CROWDED, SO I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO.
I TOLD YOU, RIGHT. IF YOU'RE DONE WITH THE IMMIGRATION PROCESS, WAIT AT THE EXIT.

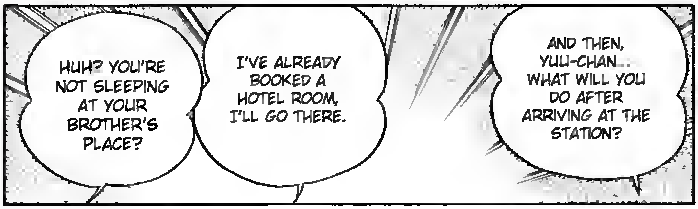
WHEN SPEAKING ON THE PHONE, YOUR THOUGHTS MUST HAVE WANDERED, SO YOU FORGOT...
YES, YES... YOU'RE RIGHT!
AAH!
OKAY!
DON'T GO ANY-WHERE ELSE!
ゴトゴト
HA HA HA... I'M SORRY ...!
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY. EVEN IF YOU'RE ALREADY DOING SOMETHING; YOU'RE THINKING OF SOMETHING ELSE. THAT'S WHY YOU OFTEN FAIL.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
SHE'S MY CLASSMATE, HER NAME IS KANA MIZUHARA-SAN. SHE WAS HELPING ME TO FIND YOU.
BY THE WAY, WHO IS THIS?

ARE YOU REALLY JUST CLASSMATES?
MAYBE YOU GUYS ARE DATING?
ジーッ
.....
NO! NO! THAT'S NOT TRUE!
YUU!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT..

No está equivocado el carrvaje
En verdad!
Aqui es mi asiento ?
THAT WAS SPANISH.
THAT WASN'T ENGLISH, WAS IT?
De nada!
Gracias!
YUU HAS EXCELLENT HEARING.
?
WELL... JUST DAY-TO-DAY CONVERSA-TION.
AMAZING! YOU CAN SPEAK SPANISH!

SHE CAN CATCH THE RHYTHYM OF THE DIFFERENT SOUNDS THAT SHE HEARS.
SHE'S AMAZING AT MEMORIZING WORDS FROM FOREIGN LANGUAGES.


OOH
BECAUSE THE BASIS OF CONVERSATION IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES IS TO CATCH THE PRONUNCIATION.


HUH? YOU'RE NOT SLEEPING AT YOUR BROTHER'S PLACE?
I'VE ALREADY BOOKED A HOTEL ROOM, I'LL GO THERE.
AND THEN, YUU-CHAN... WHAT WILL YOU DO AFTER ARRIVING AT THE STATION?

WELL ...
SO, THERE'LL BE NO PLACE TO SPEND THE NIGHT!
HAH, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SOU'S ROOM MUST BE FULL OF BOOKS!
HOUSE-KEEPER? HE MUST BE RICH..?
EVEN OUR HOUSEKEEPER, HIRA-SAN SAID IT! IF SOU IS HOME, CLEANING BECOMES A HASSLE!
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FAMILY HE WAS RAISED IN ..?
TOUMA-KUN NEVER TALKS ABOUT HIMSELF. EVEN ABOUT HIS FAMILY, HE'S NEVER SAID ANY-THING...
THAT'S RIGHT ...

IT'S ALRIGHT!
NO, WE DON'T WANT TO BE A BOTHER.
HUH!?
YUU-CHAN, HOW ABOUT IF YOU JUST STAY AT MY HOUSE!?
SO I CAN ASK HER ALL SORTS OF THINGS ...
UM...
THAT'S NOT THE CASE THESE DAYS! ALSO, IF I'M WITH YOU, I CAN ACCOMPANY YOU TO A LOT OF PLACES!
BUT I HEARD THAT JAPAN IS A SAFE COUNTRY.
IT WILL BE A WASTE OF MONEY! ANYWAY IT'S NOT SAFE FOR A YOUNG GIRL TO STAY IN A HOTEL ALONE
IS THAT SO... NOW I'M CONFUSED. BUT I'LL CHOOSE THE ONE THAT'S MORE INTERESTING! THAT'S ONE OF MY PRINCIPLES.

ALRIGHT! SORRY IF I'M BOTHERING YOU, OKAY!!
A GOOD DECISION!
YUU, IS THERE A PLACE THAT YOU'D LIKE TO VISIT?
THERE IS! YOKOHAMA!
STUDYING JAPANESE IS EASY, ISN'T IT...
水原

IN THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE THERE ARE 112 SYLLABES, LIKE A,I,U,E,O,... AND OTHERS.
JUST BY ARRANGING THEM, IT CAN BECOME A WORD, THEN BECOME A SENTENCE.
112?
THERE ARE 50 BASIC SOUNDS YOU CAN COMBINE WITH A,I,U,E,O
GA, GI, GU, GE, GO, AND HYU OR TI, WHICH ALSO HAVE ONE SOUND, ARE ALSO INCLUDED!
AH, YES...
THERE'S ALSO A SOUND LIKE THIS!
EH?

LIKE GA IN THE WORD 'MEGANE', THE SOUND THAT COMES OUT FROM THE NOSE... IT'S CALLED A NASAL...
THAT LETTER GA, BECOMES LIKE THIS!
THERE IS NO CHARAC-TER LIKE THAT!
THERE IS!
HMM ...
IF YOU COUNT THE SOUNDS, THERE ARE 400 SOUNDS IN THE BEIJING DIALECT. IT IS SAID THAT THERE ARE EVEN MORE THAN 80,000 IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. THAT'S WHY HEARING IS VERY IMPORTANT.
HAAAH...?
I didn't know that
BUT WHEN IT'S ABOUT HOW TO READ KANJI... BECAUSE THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM, IT BECOMES DIFFICULT...
THAT'S WHY I SAID THAT THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE, WITH ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF SOUNDS, IS EASY TO LEARN...

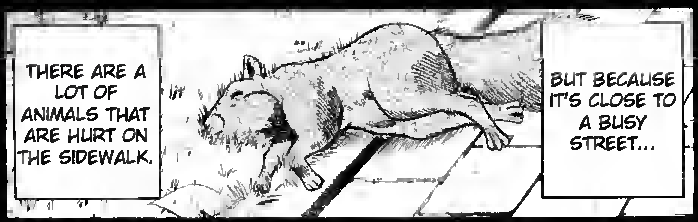
FOR ME, I ONLY STUDY IF A TEST IS COMING UP..
OOH...
I'VE BEEN STUDYING ENGLISH FOR A LONG TIME, BUT EVEN NOW I'M STILL NOT GOOD AT IT. YUU-CHAN IS AWESOME! BEING ABLE TO SPEAK MANY FOREIGN LANGUAGES
FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE A LOT OF WORDS YOU CAN USE TO SAY RAIN.
IT'S REALLY INTEREST-ING!
HE HE HE... THAT'S BECAUSE I LIKE IT...
IN CHINESE LANGUAGE, A BLACK HORSE IS CALLED HAN, AND ONE WITH A WHITE FOREHEAD IS CALLED DI.
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, FOR A SHEEP AND ITS CHILD, IN ENGLISH IT'S SEPARATED INTO SHEEP AND LAMB.
SHIGURE, SAMIDARE, TSUYU.. MEANWHILE FOR THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IT'S ONLY RAIN.
HM..
IN OTHER WORDS, THE IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT PEOPLE'S LIVES AND THEIR THOUGHT PROCESSES ARE SHOWN IN THE WORDS THEY USE...

TO BE ABLE TO HAVE SUCH AN EFFECT...
THAT MEANS IT'S REALLY INTERESTING, RIGHT!
WHAT?
YOU TWO REALLY ARE BROTHER AND SISTER.. YOU ARE SO ALIKE!
EH? REALLY?
UM... BUT WE ARE OFTEN TOLD THAT WE ARE NOT SIMILAR...
BY WHO?
YES, I FEEL LIKE I'M TALKING WITH TOUMA-KUN.
MOM AND DAD...

FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE'RE CLIMBING TREES, SOU KNOWS WHEN TO STOP GOING FORWARD, WHILE I WILL RECKLESSLY KEEP GOING AND FALL.
IN THAT CASE, TOUMA-KUN MUST BE REALLY LONELY, HUH..
NOT REALLY..
HA HA HA HA HA!!
THEREFORE, IT COULD BE DANGEROUS IF I'M NOT SUPERVISED.. MEANWHILE IT'S NO PROBLEM TO JUST LEAVE SOU ON HIS OWN.

BECAUSE SOU NEVER REALLY THINKS ABOUT THAT KIND OF STUFF.

A BIG PARK ACROSS FROM A DOCK.
IN IT, THERE ARE A LOT OF SQUIRRELS AND BIRDS.
THERE'S A PARK NEAR OUR HOUSE...

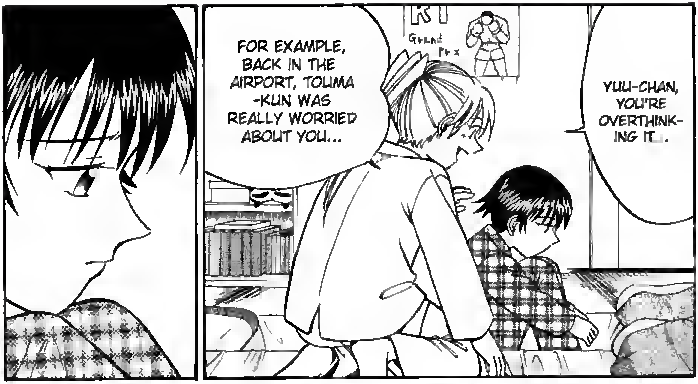

THERE ARE A LOT OF ANIMALS THAT ARE HURT ON THE SIDEWALK.
BUT BECAUSE IT'S CLOSE TO A BUSY STREET...

AND LATER TAKE IT TO A HOSPI-TAL...
IF HE FOUND ONE, SOU WOULD ALWAYS BRING IT HOME AND TAKE CARE OF IT..

OF COURSE, THOSE ANIMALS NATURALLY BECAME USED TO SOU.
SOMETIMES... HE EVEN TOOK CARE OF THEM UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT
HOW-EVER ...

HE WILL IMMEDIATELY RETURN IT TO THE PARK.
IF IT'S NO LONGER HURT, JUST AS IF HE'S DEVOID OF ANY FEELINGS..

AND JUST LEAVE WITHOUT EVEN TURNING BACK.
MAYBE SOU'S ATTITUDE TO EVERYONE IS THE SAME.
WHETHER WE'RE THERE OR NOT... IT DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
MAYBE BECAUSE I ALWAYS DREW OUR PARENTS' ATTENTION,
SINCE I ALWAYS MAKE MISTAKES ...
IT MAKES SOU FEEL... LIKE HE IS NOT LOVED BY ANYONE...


FOR EXAMPLE, BACK IN THE AIRPORT, TOUMA -KUN WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
YUU-CHAN, YOU'RE OVERTHINK-ING IT.

LONG AGO, WE USED TO HAVE A DOG AS A PET...

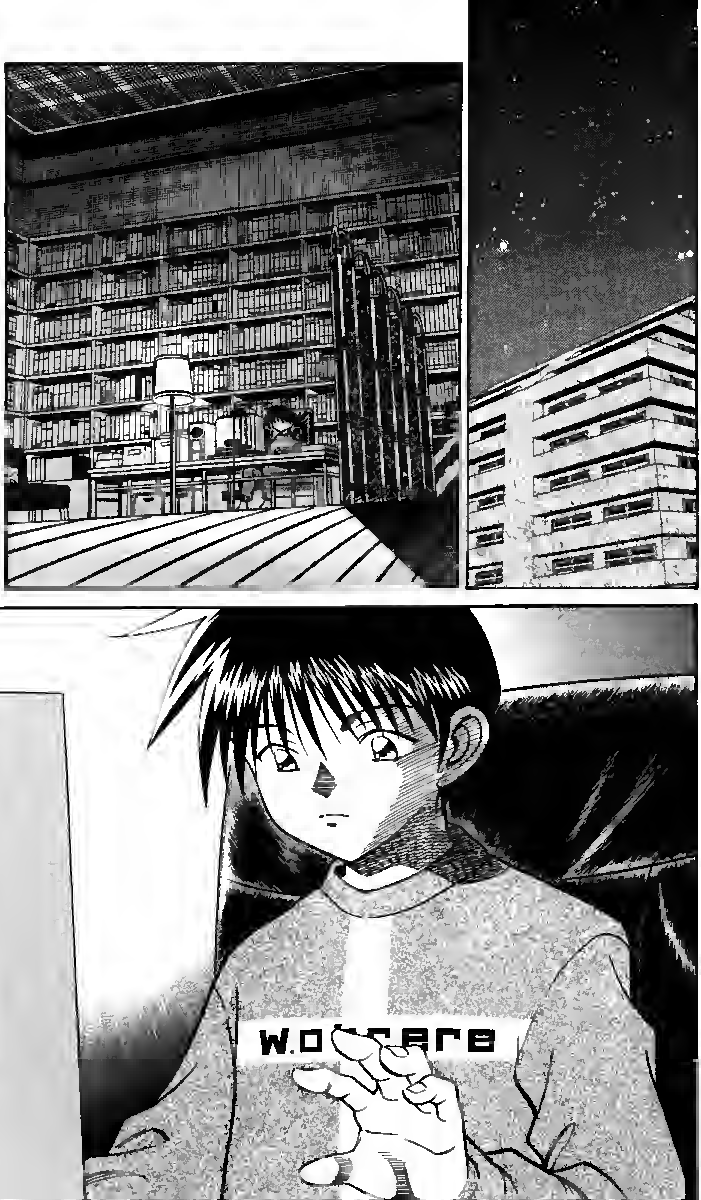
EVEN TEACHING HIM HOW TO SIT WAS VERY DIFFICULT.
WHEN HE FIRST ARRIVED, HE ALWAYS POOPED INSIDE THE HOUSE,
WHAT A DUMB MUTT!
ICHIE

ITS NAME WAS ICHIEN.
WE GOT IT BY TRADING A 1 YEN COIN WITH OUR NEIGHBOUR,
A LIGHT BROWN, MIXED BREED DOG.

ON HIS NECK, THERE WAS A COLLAR THAT I MADE, ADORNED WITH A SWINGING 1 YEN COIN.
I REALLY LOVED HIM.
WELL... DESPITE ALL THAT HE WAS A GOOD DOG. EVERY TIME I WALKED IN THE DOCKS IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE, HE ALWAYS CAME WITH ME.
MOM AND DAD WERE AWAY FROM HOME. SOU WAS STAYING AT HIS UNIVERSITY LAB, AND I WAS HOME ALONE.
HOWEVER, ONE DAY...
ICHIEN, WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE THERE WAS MISSING.
IN THE MORNING, WHEN I WOKE UP...

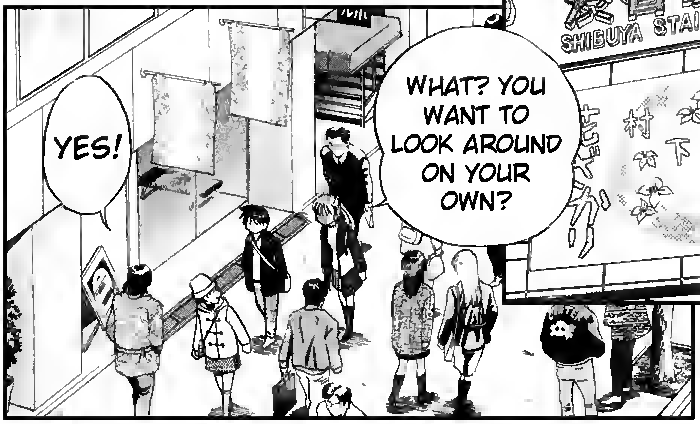
FIVE DAYS AFTER THAT, SOU CAME HOME
ALONG WITH HIRA-SAN. . I WENT AROUND LOOKING FOR HIM, BUT I COULDN'T FIND HIM.
I EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO HIM
AND THEN ...
HE ONLY SAID THAT, AND LEFT...
I HAVE NO IDEA.
B.. BUT YUU-CHAN...

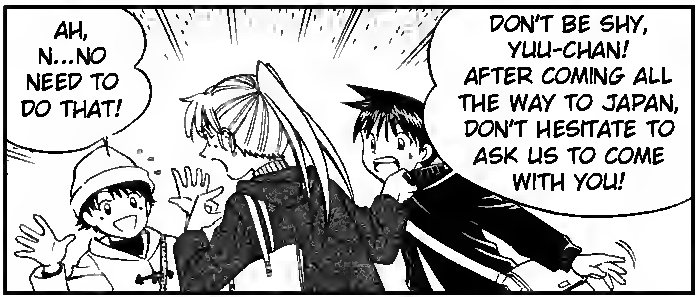
HE DIDN'T EVEN DO THAT.
IF THAT WAS THE CASE, HE COULD'VE HELPED ME LOOK FOR HIM.
MAYBE HE REALLY DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING. HE'S NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON TO TALK A LOT.
SO... MAYBE SOU'S ATTITUDE... TOWARDS ME OR ANYONE ELSE... IS THE SAME.
NO MATTER HOW GOOD OUR RELATIONSHIP APPEARS TO BE,
IN THE END, IT'S THE SAME AS THOUGH WE WEREN'T THERE...

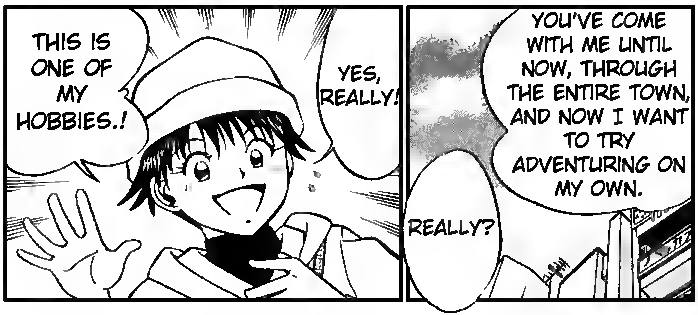


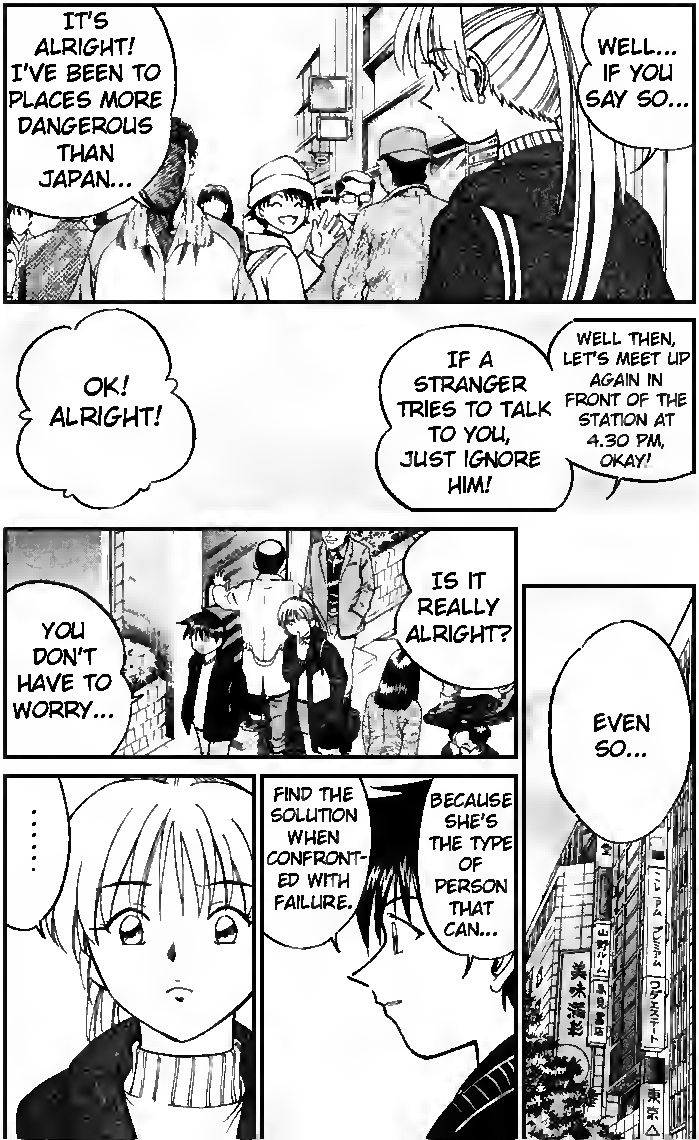
DECEMBER 30TH.
渋谷
SHIBUYA
JR
WAAH.. SO THIS IS SHIBUYA...?
SO IT'S TRUE... THERE ARE A LOT OF CLOTHES HERE AT REASONABLE PRICES.
BUT IT REALLY IS CROWDED. A LOT OF PEOPLE COME HERE, ESPECIALLY NOW AT THE END OF THE YEAR.
IT'S TOTALLY PACKED.
ALTHOUGH, AGAINST THIS WINTER SKY, THE COLD WIND MAKES PEOPLE FEEL UNPLEASANT.

TOUMA-KUN, WHY HAVE YOU BEEN GRUMBLING ALL THIS TIME?
WE'VE BEEN TO SIX CLOTHING STORES, AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BOUGHT A SINGLE THING...
OH, I WAS JUST WONDERING, WHEN EXACTLY THE TWO OF YOU WOULD FIND CLOTHES THAT YOU LIKE...
I STILL HAVE TO FIND A DIVING SUIT...
YOU DON'T UNDER - STAND THIS KIND OF THING.
It's good.
How about this?
コート
BECAUSE, CHOOSING THE CLOTHES IS THE FUN PART...

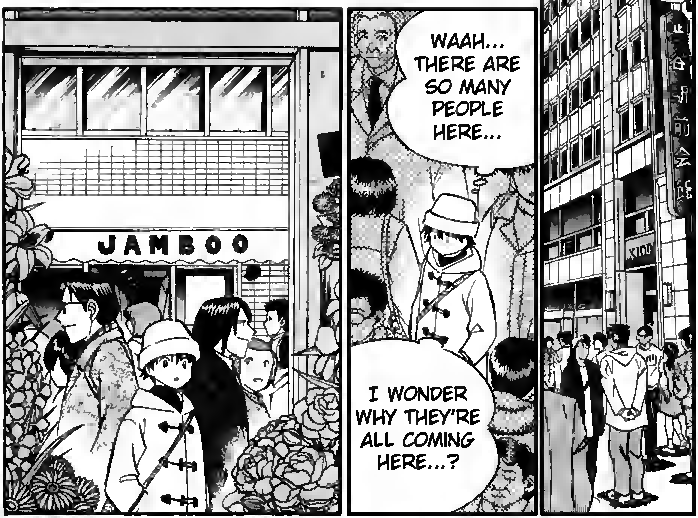

YES!
WHAT? YOU WANT TO LOOK AROUND ON YOUR OWN?
SHIBUYA STAIT

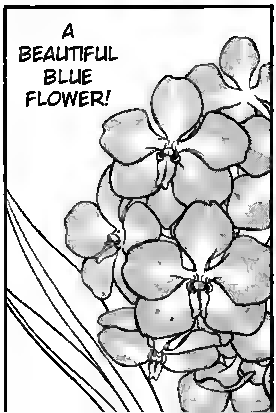

AH, N...NO NEED TO DO THAT!
DON'T BE SHY, YUU-CHAN! AFTER COMING ALL THE WAY TO JAPAN, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK US TO COME WITH YOU!


THIS IS ONE OF MY HOBBIES.!
YES, REALLY!
YOU'VE COME WITH ME UNTIL NOW, THROUGH THE ENTIRE TOWN, AND NOW I WANT TO TRY ADVENTURING ON MY OWN.
REALLY?


IT'S ALRIGHT! I'VE BEEN TO PLACES MORE DANGEROUS THAN JAPAN...
WELL... IF YOU SAY SO...
OK! ALRIGHT!
IF A STRANGER TRIES TO TALK TO YOU, JUST IGNORE HIM!
WELL THEN, LET'S MEET UP AGAIN IN FRONT OF THE STATION AT 4.30 PM, OKAY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY...
IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT?
EVEN SO...
.....
FIND THE SOLUTION WHEN CONFRONTED WITH FAILURE.
BECAUSE SHE'S THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT CAN...

WHETHER WE'RE THERE OR NOT... IT DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO SOU.
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME LIKE THAT? LIKE A TIGER...
Tiger.
I THINK YUU IS JUST BEING TOO SENSITIVE...
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU!?
EH, TOUMA-KUN... MAY I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
WHAT IS IT? GO AHEAD AND ASK.
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER YUU-CHAN'S PET DOG?



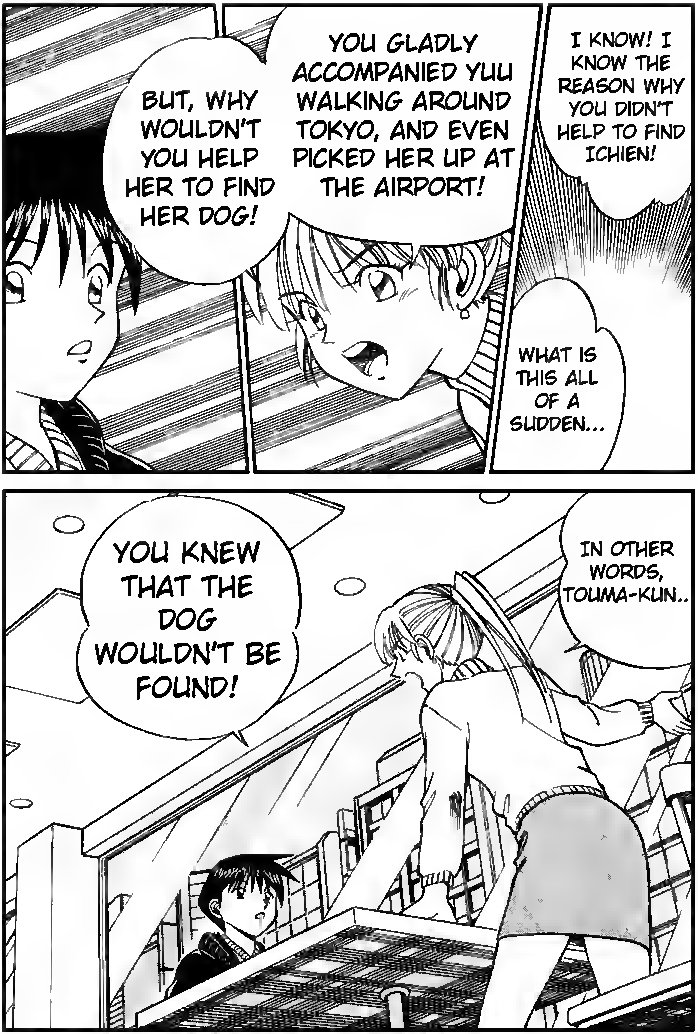


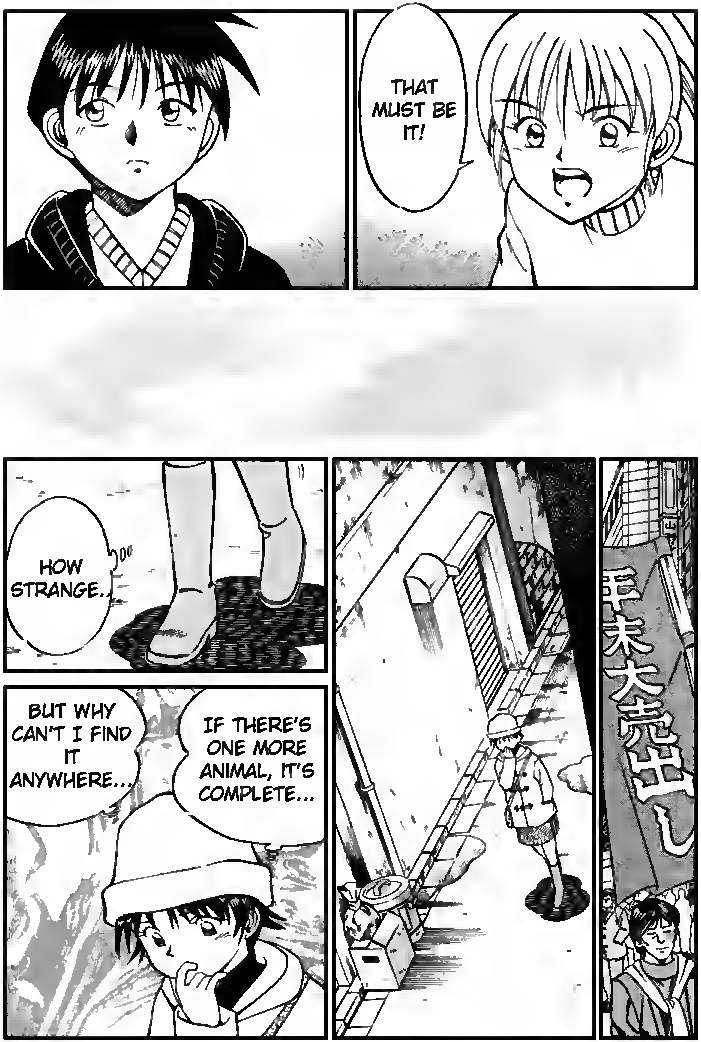
AH, YES...

NOT LONG AFTER ICHIEN DISAPPEARED..

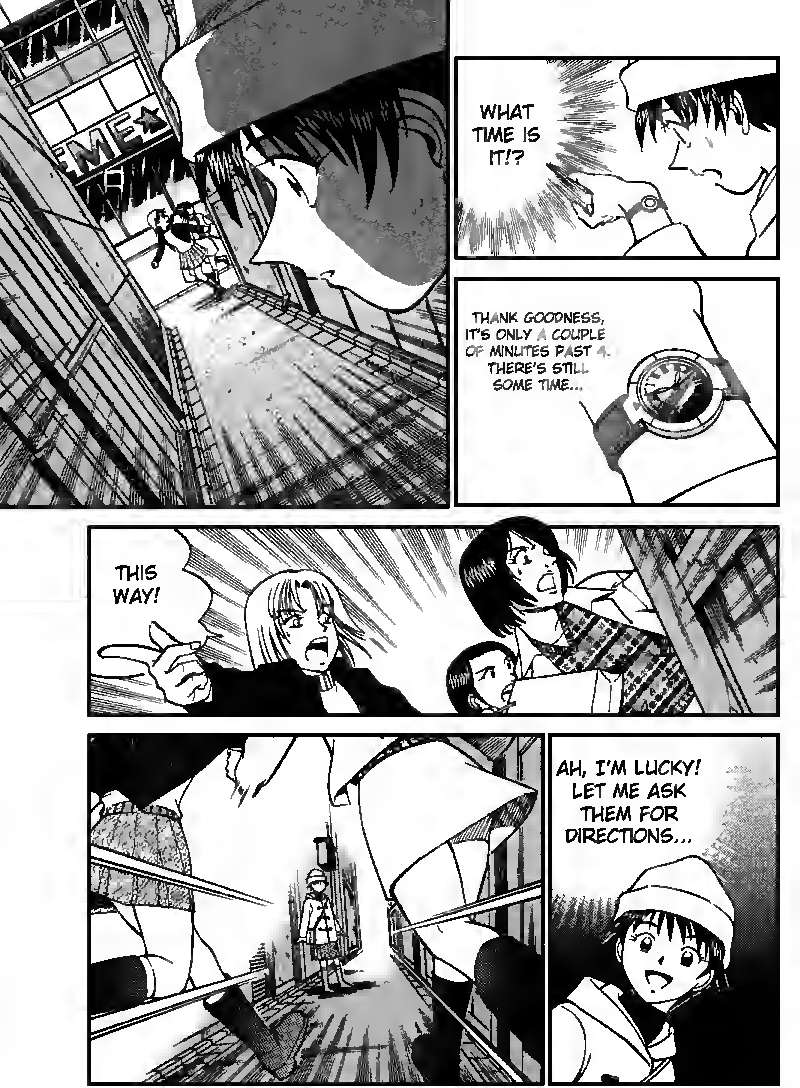
THE HYDRANGEA FLOWERS BLOOMING IN THE GARDEN...
WHICH ARE USUALLY RED IN COLOUR, BECAME BLUE THAT YEAR.
SEEING THAT, I FELT LIKE I HEARD ICHIEN CRYING.
I WONDER WHY THAT IS...?

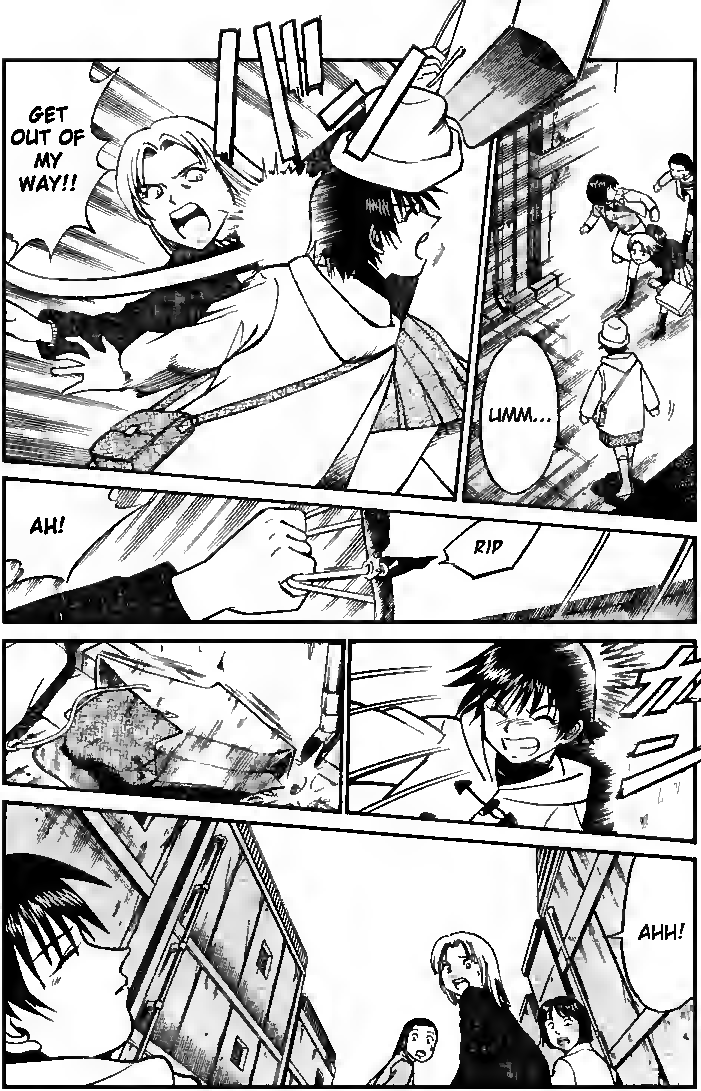
YUU THINKS THAT YOU HATE HER!
BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T HELP HER TO FIND ICHIEN,
ello's
WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ?
I KNOW!
AH!
BAM!
EVEN THOUGH THAT WASN'T THE CASE...
.....


BUT, WHY WOULDN'T YOU HELP HER TO FIND HER DOG!
YOU GLADLY ACCOMPANIED YUU WALKING AROUND TOKYO, AND EVEN PICKED HER UP AT THE AIRPORT!
I KNOW! I KNOW THE REASON WHY YOU DIDN'T HELP TO FIND ICHIEN!
WHAT IS THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN...
YOU KNEW THAT THE DOG WOULDN'T BE FOUND!
IN OTHER WORDS, TOUMA-KUN..

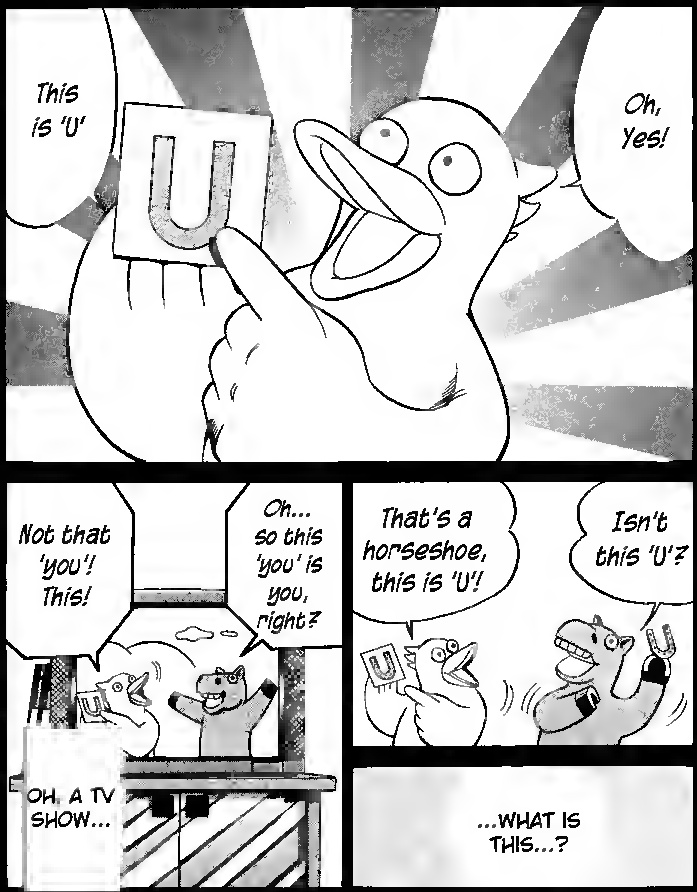

THAT MUST BE IT!
HOW STRANGE...
BUT WHY CAN'T I FIND IT ANYWHERE...
IF THERE'S ONE MORE ANIMAL, IT'S COMPLETE...
未来大売出し

UM?
A HORSE WOULD MATCH... BUT IF THERE'S A DONKEY IT WOULD MATCH UP BETTER...
BECAUSE THEY LOOK THE SAME...
WAAH... I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS PLACE BEFORE...!
MAYBE I'M LOST...!?
WHERE AM I?
HUH?
KIDO CARD

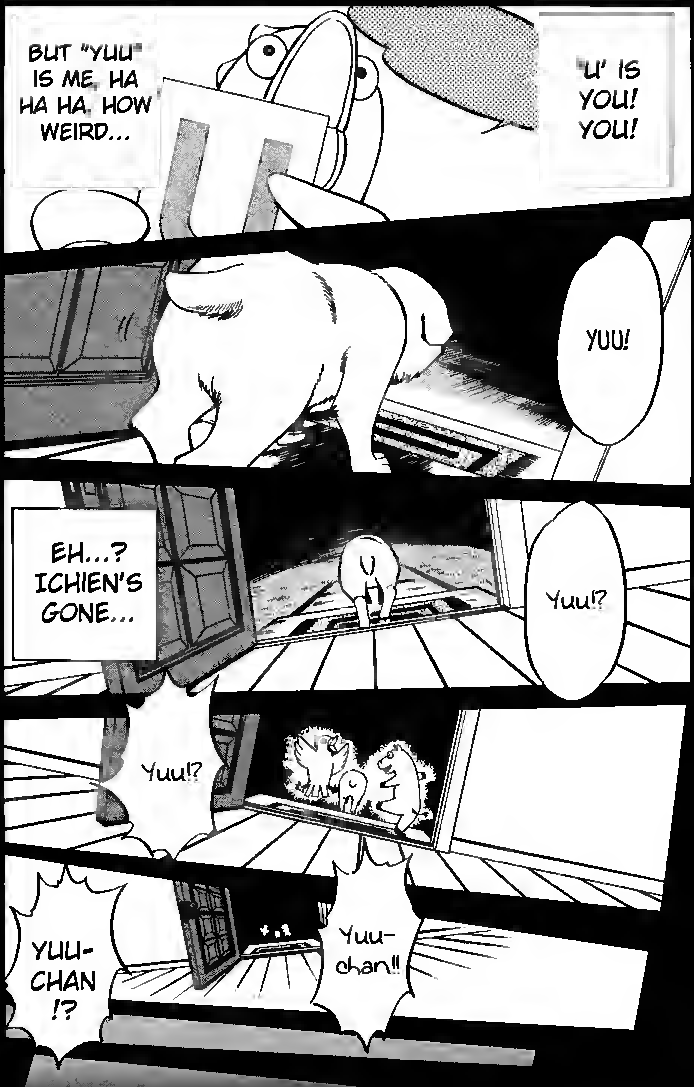

WHAT TIME IS IT!?
THANK GOODNESS, IT'S ONLY A COUPLE OF MINUTES PAST 4. THERE'S STILL SOME TIME...
THIS WAY!
AH, I'M LUCKY! LET ME ASK THEM FOR DIRECTIONS...

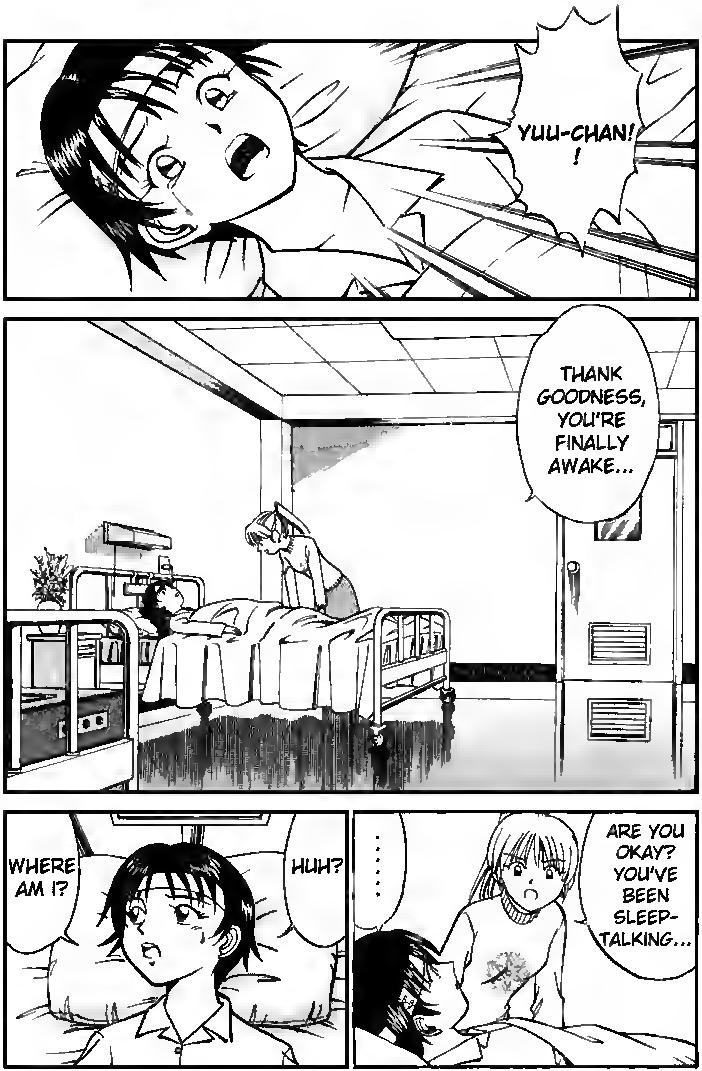

GET OUT OF MY WAY!!
UMM...
AH!
RIP
AHH!

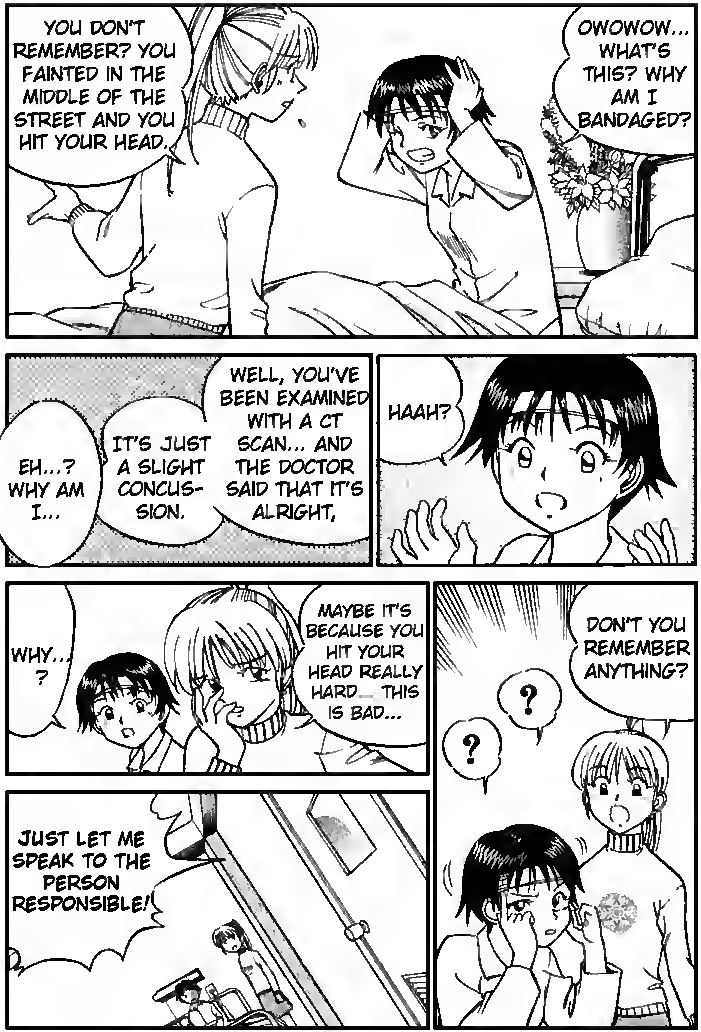
Y, YES...
LET'S JUST RUN!
I... IS SHE DEAD!?
OH NO! SHE HIT HER HEAD!
THIS WASN'T OUR FAULT!
YES! YOU IDIOT!
IT'S YOUR FAULT ANYWAY! SUDDENLY JUMPING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD!


This is 'U'
U
Oh, Yes!
Not that 'you'! This!
Oh... so this 'you' is you, right?
OH, A TV SHOW...
That's a horseshoe, this is 'U'!
Isn't this 'U'?
...WHAT IS THIS...?

THE DAY BEFORE ICHIEN WENT MISSING...
HUH!? THIS IS...
I'm a bird!
'You' is not you?
AH... HIRA-SAN IS WAVING GOOD-BYE. SHE'S GOING HOME. SHE'LL COME AGAIN TOMORROW...
MOM, DAD, AND SOU WERE AWAY...
You!
IF I DON'T LET HIM OUT TO DO HIS BUSINESS BEFORE HE SLEEPS...
ICHIEN LOOKS SLEEPY.
HOAAH ...

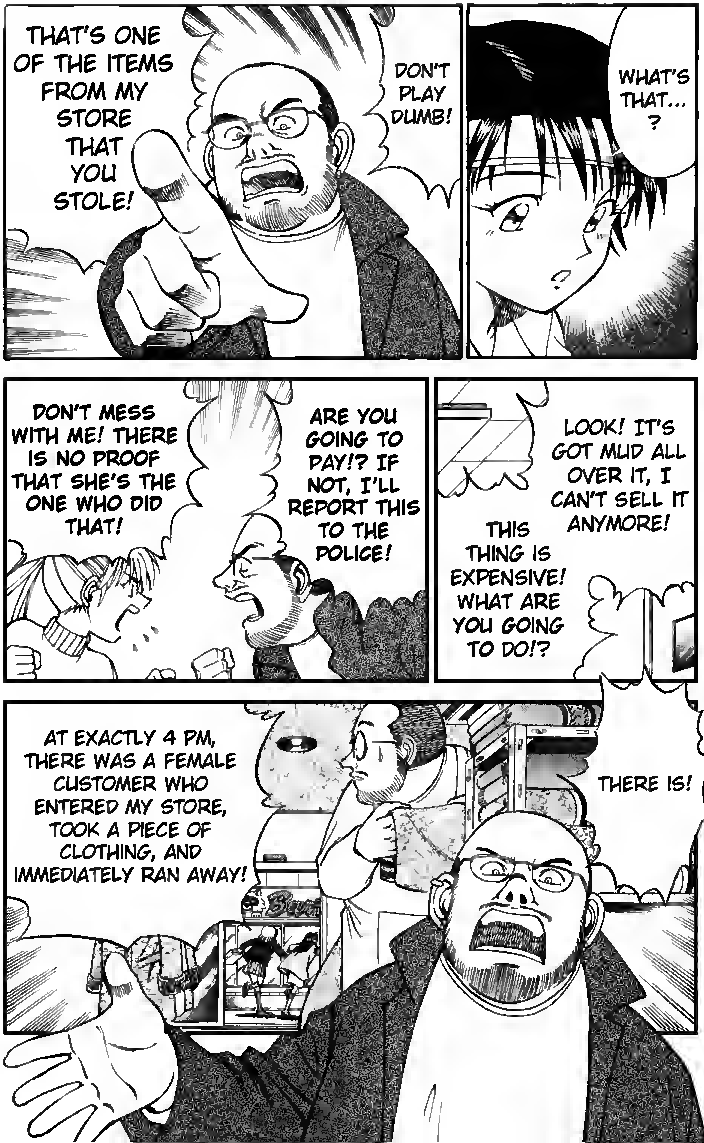

BUT "YUU" IS ME. HA HA HA. HOW WEIRD...
"U" IS YOU! YOU!
YUU!
EH...? ICHIEN'S GONE...
Yuu!?
Yuu!?
YUU-CHAN!?
Yuu-chan!!


YUU-CHAN!
!
THANK GOODNESS, YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE...
WHERE AM I?
HUH?
.....
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'VE BEEN SLEEP-TALKING...

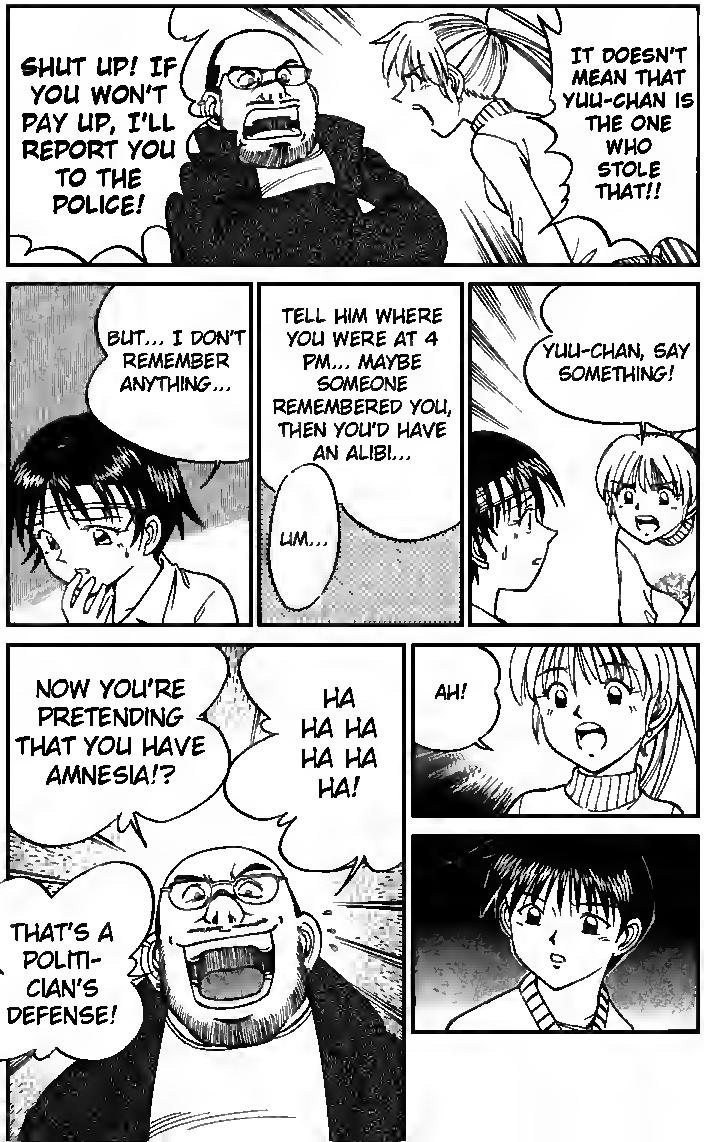

YOU DON'T REMEMBER? YOU FAINTED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET AND YOU HIT YOUR HEAD.
OWOWOW... WHAT'S THIS? WHY AM I BANDAGED?
EH...? WHY AM I...
IT'S JUST A SLIGHT CONCUSSION.
WELL, YOU'VE BEEN EXAMINED WITH A CT SCAN... AND THE DOCTOR SAID THAT IT'S ALRIGHT,
HAAH?
WHY...?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU HIT YOUR HEAD REALLY HARD— THIS IS BAD...
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING?
?
?
JUST LET ME SPEAK TO THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE!

WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'D BE DIFFICULT!
ARE YOU TRYING TO FOOL ME!?
JUST LOOK, SHE'S ALREADY UP AND ABOUT! YOU LIAR!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN FAINTED!?
YUU-CHAN ONLY WOKE UP JUST NOW!!
WAIT! DON'T SAY SOME-THING MEAN LIKE THAT!
?

SH... SHOPLIFTER ...?
WHAT! ?
CAN YOU REALLY TRUST THE WORDS OF A SHOPLIFTER !?
OH, IS THAT SO?
MAYBE YOU REMEMBER THIS?
HUH! OKAY...


THAT'S ONE OF THE ITEMS FROM MY STORE THAT YOU STOLE!
DON'T PLAY DUMB!
WHAT'S THAT...?
DON'T MESS WITH ME! THERE IS NO PROOF THAT SHE'S THE ONE WHO DID THAT!
ARE YOU GOING TO PAY!? IF NOT, I'LL REPORT THIS TO THE POLICE!
LOOK! IT'S GOT MUD ALL OVER IT, I CAN'T SELL IT ANYMORE!
THIS THING IS EXPENSIVE! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO!?
AT EXACTLY 4 PM, THERE WAS A FEMALE CUSTOMER WHO ENTERED MY STORE, TOOK A PIECE OF CLOTHING, AND IMMEDIATELY RAN AWAY!
THERE IS!

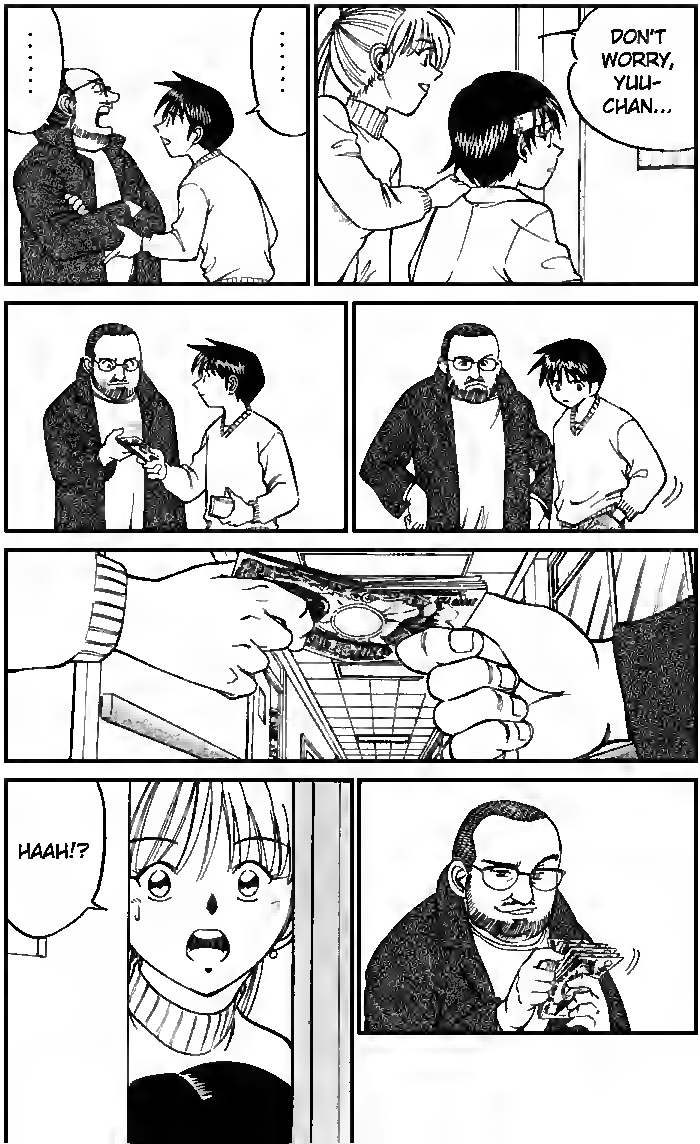
YOU RASCALS! DON'T RUN!!
HAH
HAH
HAH
WAIT!
AND THEN, THAT GIRL COLLAPSED.
WITH THE STOLEN [illegible]S RIGHT BESIDE HER,
SHE MUST'VE SLIPPED IN HER RUSH TO RUN AWAY!


SHUT UP! IF YOU WON'T PAY UP, I'LL REPORT YOU TO THE POLICE!
IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT YUU-CHAN IS THE ONE WHO STOLE THAT!!
BUT... I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...
TELL HIM WHERE YOU WERE AT 4 PM... MAYBE SOMEONE REMEMBERED YOU, THEN YOU'D HAVE AN ALIBI...
UM...
YUU-CHAN, SAY SOMETHING!
NOW YOU'RE PRETENDING THAT YOU HAVE AMNESIA!?
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
THAT'S A POLITI-CIAN'S DEFENSE!
AH!

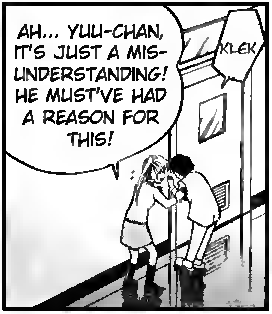
DO YOUR BEST... TRY TO REMEMBER SOMETHING ...
HO...
NO! SHE LOST HER MEMORY BECAUSE SHE HIT HER HEAD!
I...
Womit fangt der Tag an und hort die Nacht auf ?
THAT WAS GER-MAN,
IT MEANS... WHAT BEGINS THE DAY('TAG') AND ENDS THE NIGHT('NACHT')?

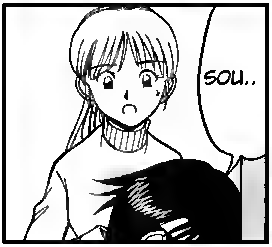
ANIMAL?
I THINK, IN THE END I WAS LOOKING FOR AN ANIMAL...
THE START OF THE DAY AND THE END OF THE NIGHT?
IF I CAN FIND IT, IT WILL MAKE A SONG...
A DONKEY ?
YES... A DONKEY! I WAS LOOKING FOR A DONKEY!
DON'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME! IT'S BETTER IF YOU JUST LET THE COPS INVESTI-GATE YOU!
AAH! I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!
A SONG?

ALSO WE'RE MAKING A RACKET IN A PATIENT'S ROOM; IT'S BETTER IF WE TALK OUT IN THE CORRIDOR...
SET!
DIP!
IN THE HOSPITAL, IT'S FORBIDDEN TO USE YOUR CELL PHONE.
WHAT THE...!?
THANK GOODNESS, TOUMA-KUN WILL SURELY BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT PROPERLY.
KLEK

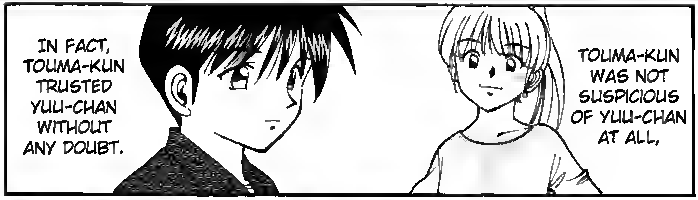

.....
.....
DON'T WORRY, YUU-CHAN...
HAAH!?

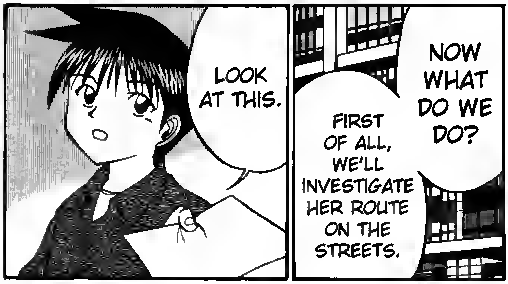
DOESN'T BELIEVE ME...


AH... YUU-CHAN, IT'S JUST A MIS-UNDERSTANDING! HE MUST'VE HAD A REASON FOR THIS!
KLEK

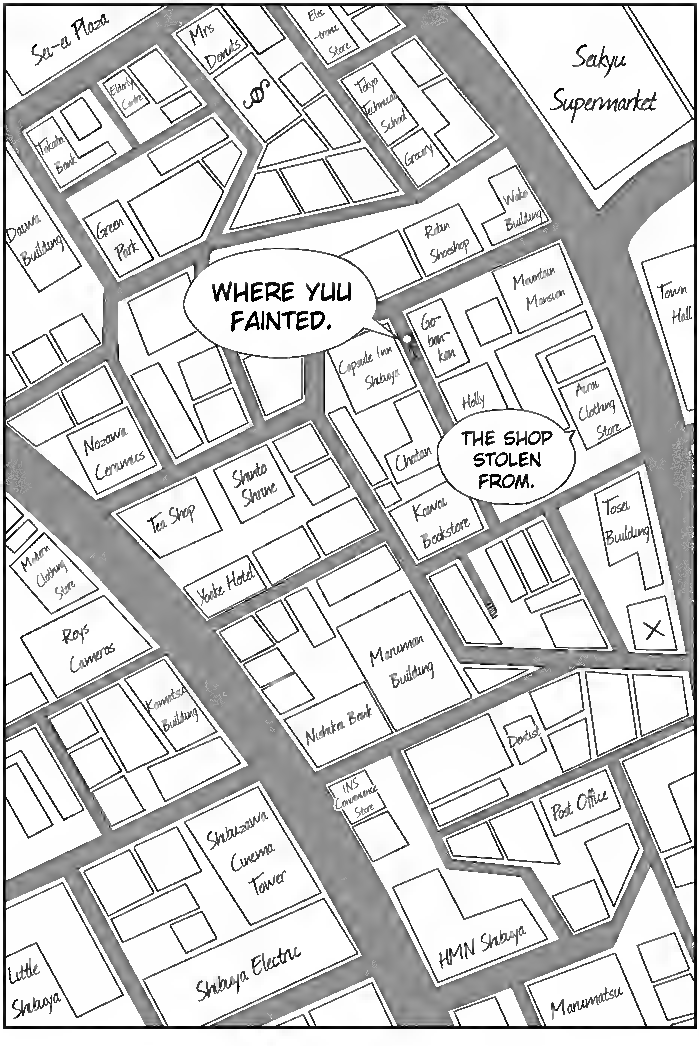

SOU..

IT'S THE SAME AS ADMITTING THAT YUU-CHAN IS THE THIEF!!
UNBELIEVABLE! YOU GAVE HIM MONEY!!
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO. IF I HADN'T DONE THAT, HE'D HAVE REPORTED THIS TO THE POLICE.
TICK TICK
I FEEL REALLY SORRY FOR HER! SHE'S SO DEPRESSED ...
THAT SHE SAID THAT SHE WANTED TO SLEEP IN THE HOTEL ROOM ALONE!
AND THAT WOULD HAVE DISTURBED YUU'S REST, RIGHT?
THEN... WHAT ABOUT THE MONEY?
AND ABOUT YUU'S INNOCENCE, IT CAN BE PROVEN LATER.





I'VE MISUNDER-STOOD HIM.

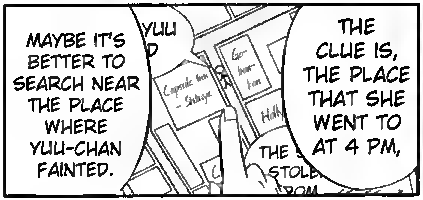

Se-e Plaza
Mrs Donuts
Electronic Store
Sakyu Supermarket
Tokyo Technical School
Grocery
Theatre Board
Electric Centre
Green Park
Drama Building
Rita Shoeshop
Wako Building
WHERE YUU FAINTED.
Mountain Mansion
Town Hall
Capsule Inn Shibuya
Go-ban-kan
Holly
Arma Clothing Store
THE SHOP STOLEN FROM.
Nozawa Communications
Shinto Shrine
Tea Shop
Chicken
Kawai Bookstore
Tosei Building
Yokke Hotel
Mister Clothing Store
Roys Cameras
Marunaka Building
Kamakura Building
Nishiki Bank
Postal
INS Convenience Store
Post Office
Shibazawa Cinema Tower
HMN Shibuya
Little Shibuya
Shibuya Electric
Marumatsu

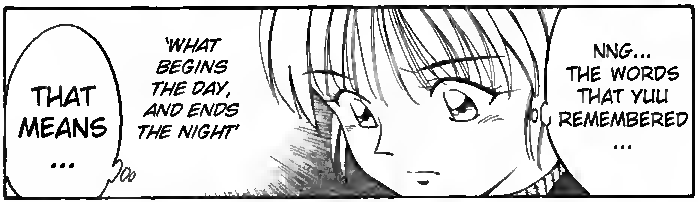
'WHAT BEGINS THE DAY, AND ENDS THE NIGHT' AND THEN... 'LOOKING FOR A DONKEY IN THE END'?
DEC-EMBER 31ST
渋谷駅
SHIBUYA STAITION
AND THEN... 'IF IT IS FOUND, IT CAN BE A SONG'.
THE KEY HERE IS THE WORDS THAT YUU REMEMBERS.
YUU HAS A HABIT OF CONNECTING THOUGHTS ABOUT THE THINGS SHE'S INTERESTED IN.
PERHAPS BECAUSE SHE MEMORIZES SO MANY FOREIGN WORDS.

IF ONLY WE'RE ABLE TO FIND THOSE...
IN OTHER WORDS... ALONG THE PATH SHE WENT ALONG, THERE MUST BE WORDS THAT WOULD GRAB HER ATTENTION.
WE HAVE TO TRY OUR BEST...
AND IF WE KNOW WHAT ROUTE SHE FOLLOWED, MAYBE WE CAN FIND SOMEONE WHO SAW YUU AT 4 PM.
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT!
BUT CAN WE REALLY...
OK!
IN THAT CASE... I'LL GO EAST!
I'LL SEARCH TOWARDS THE WEST!
LET'S SPLIT UP!

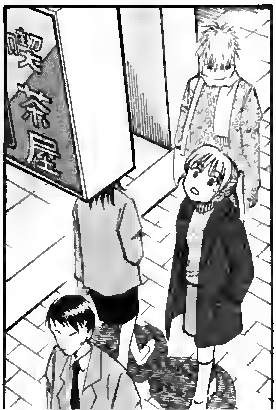
HM... TALKING IS THE EASY PART, BUT WHERE AND HOW TO FIND IT...?

KUDO CARD
銀行

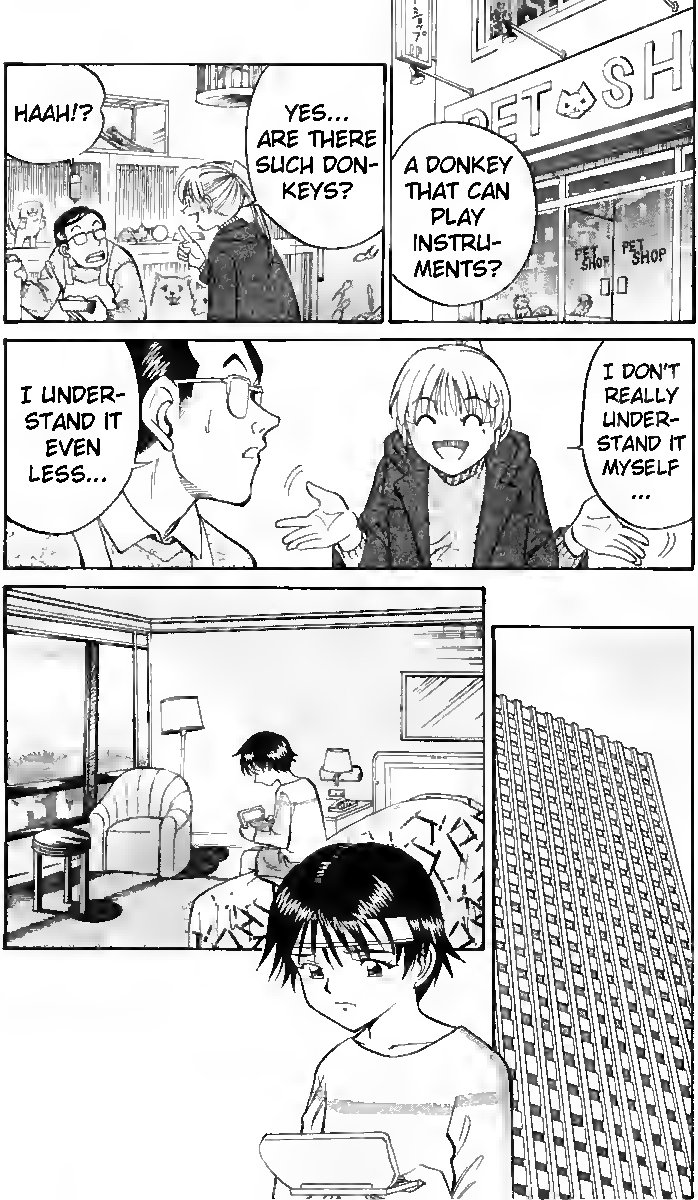

MAYBE IT'S BETTER TO SEARCH NEAR THE PLACE WHERE YUU-CHAN FAINTED.
THE CLUE IS, THE PLACE THAT SHE WENT TO AT 4 PM,

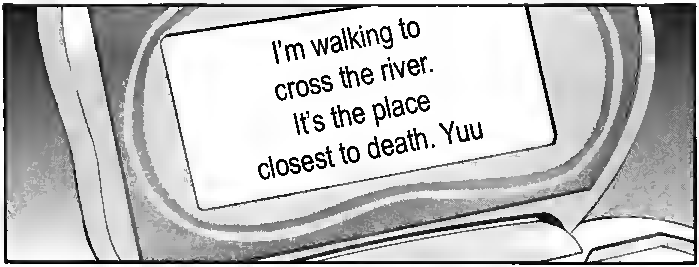

NNG... THE WORDS THAT YUU REMEMBERED ...
'WHAT BEGINS THE DAY, AND ENDS THE NIGHT'
THAT MEANS ...

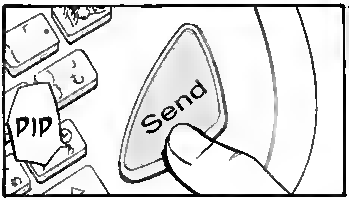
男



AH! PLEASE TRY TO REMEMBER, MAYBE...
THERE WASN'T ANYONE LIKE THAT.
A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRL, SHORT HAIR...
EH? A YOUNG GIRL, YESTERDAY AT 4 PM?
BECAUSE THIS SHOP WAS CLOSED YESTERDAY.
NO ONE CAME HERE!
MAYBE THE WORD IS NOT 'MORNING'...?
HMM...
IF THAT'S SO... ARE THERE ANY OTHER SHOPS AROUND HERE THAT USE THE KANJI FOR MORNING?
NO... I HAVEN'T HEARD OF ANY...


A DONKEY THAT CAN PLAY INSTRUMENTS?
PET SHOP
PET SHOP
YES... ARE THERE SUCH DONKEYS?
HAAH!?
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF ...
I UNDERSTAND IT EVEN LESS...


I'm walking to
cross the river.
It's the place
closest to death. Yuu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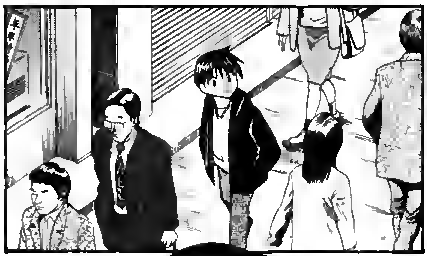
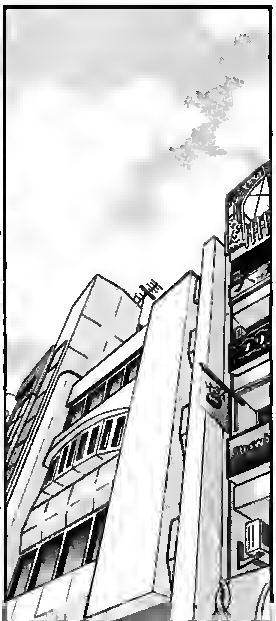
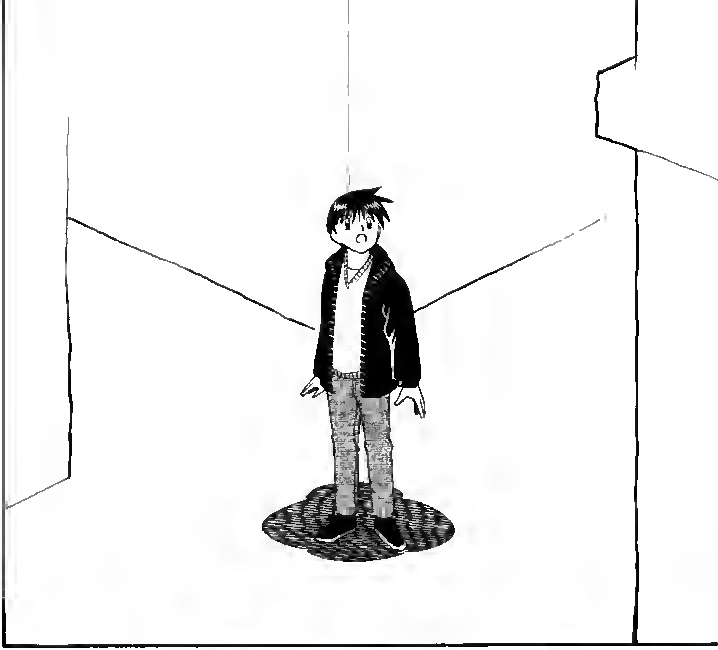
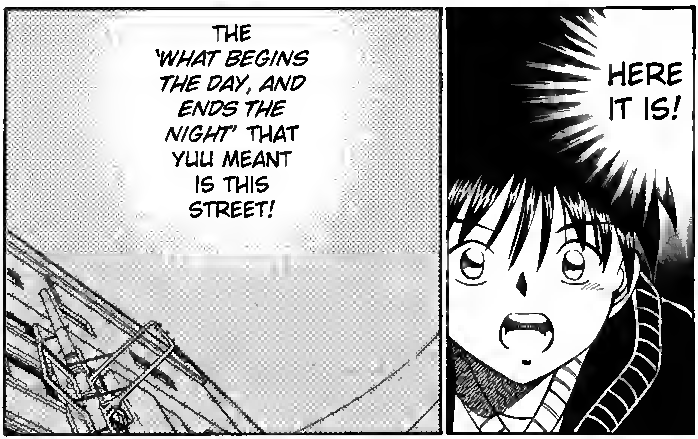




'WHAT BEGINS THE DAY (Tag), AND ENDS THE NIGHT (Nacht)'.
WHERE SHOULD I TURN FROM HERE, I WONDER. .
Tea shop

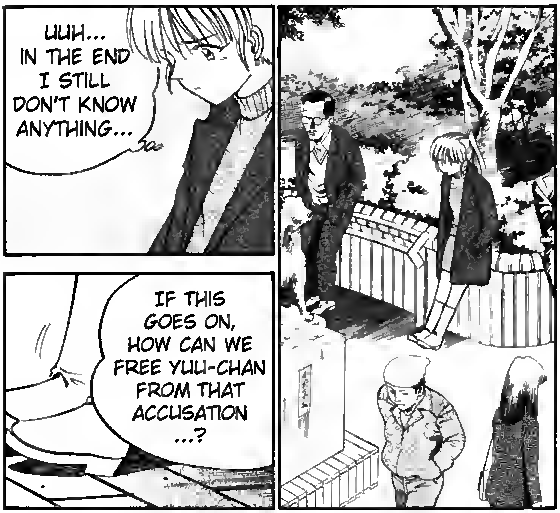



THE 'WHAT BEGINS THE DAY, AND ENDS THE NIGHT' THAT YUU MEANT IS THIS STREET!
HERE IT IS!

KOMA-INU. IMAGE OF A KOREAN DOG. THE STATUE OF A GUARDIAN DOG PLACED IN FRONT OF THE GATE OF A SHINTO SHRINE.

A PICTURE OF A CAT.
PURIFI-CATION WATER
THE ONLY THING THAT'S LEFT...
A DOG AND A CAT...
EH!?
HERE IT IS!
YUU WAS LOOKING FOR A DONKEY AT THIS SHRINE!

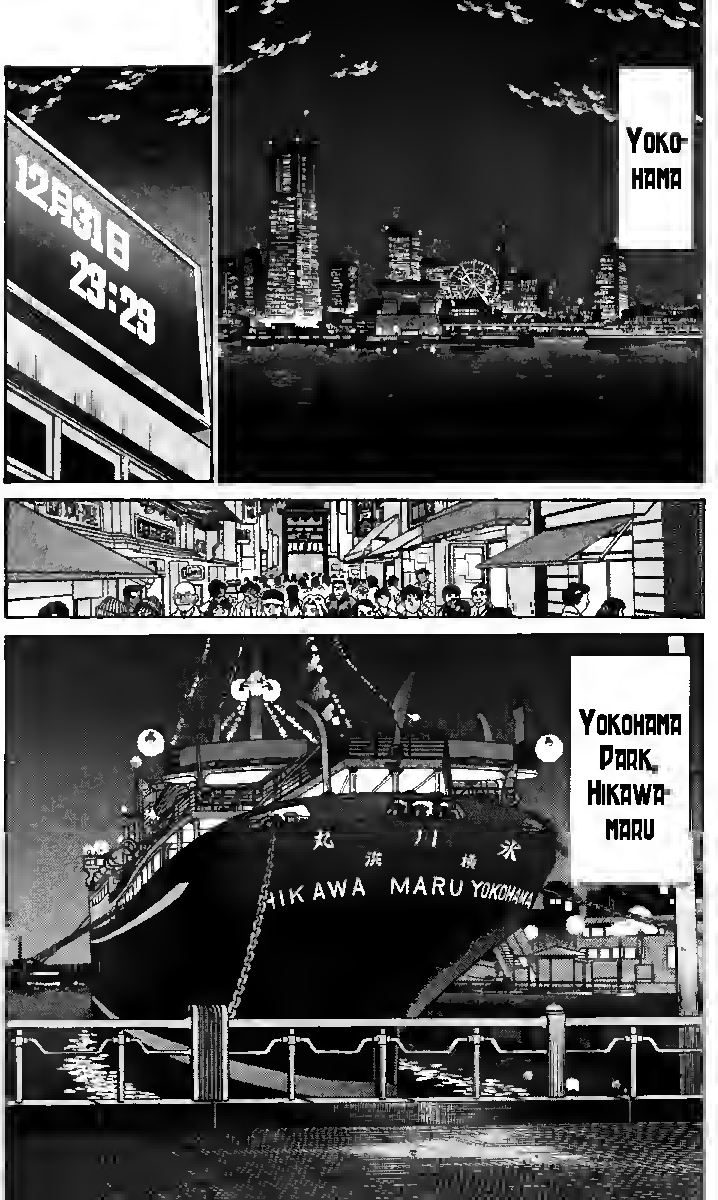
UM... EXCUSE ME...
YES, WHAT IS IT?


UUH... IN THE END I STILL DON'T KNOW ANYTHING...
IF THIS GOES ON, HOW CAN WE FREE YUU-CHAN FROM THAT ACCUSATION ...?
渋谷駅
SHIBUYA STATION

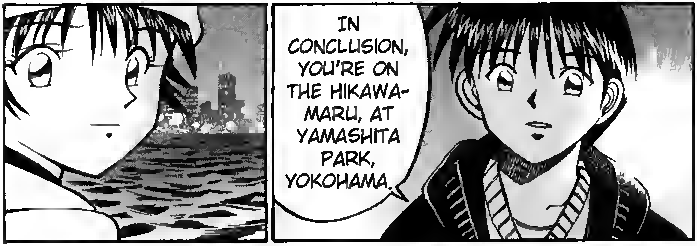
MAYBE YUU-CHAN WILL ALWAYS BE MISUNDERSTANDING TOUMA-KUN...
EVEN THOUGH HE COULD'VE HELPED ME LOOK FOR HIM ...
WHETHER I'M THERE OR NOT, IT DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
'WHAT BEGINS THE DAY, AND ENDS THE NIGHT'
'LOOKING FOR A DONKEY IN THE END'?. 'IF IT IS FOUND, IT CAN BE A SONG'!
WHAT EXACTLY DO THOSE WORDS MEAN?
MIZUHARA-SAN!
TOUMA-KUN!
YOU GOT SOMETHING?
WHAT'S IN THE BAG?

HE ASKED ME TO DELIVER HIS APOLOGY TO YUU.
HE SAID TO TAKE IT AS AN APOLOGY.
THE OWNER OF THE CLOTHING STORE FROM YESTERDAY GAVE IT TO ME.
AIRAI
EH! THERE'S AN EMAIL.
!
YES, YES...
THANK GOODNESS! LET'S QUICKLY TELL YUU-CHAN!
EEH!? SO...!
HE ALSO RETURNED THE MONEY. A MIKO FROM A NEARBY SHRINE TESTIFIED TO SEEING YUU AT 4 PM YESTERDAY.
I'm walking to cross the river. It's the place closest to death. Yuu
JR
渋谷
SHIBUYA STA

'THE PLACE CLOSEST TO DEATH'!
WHAT'S THAT!?
?
PIP PIP!
DID
SEND MAIL
RECEIVE MAIL
MAYBE SHE'S FEELING HOPELESS AND WANTS TO COMMIT SUICIDE!?
Q.E.D

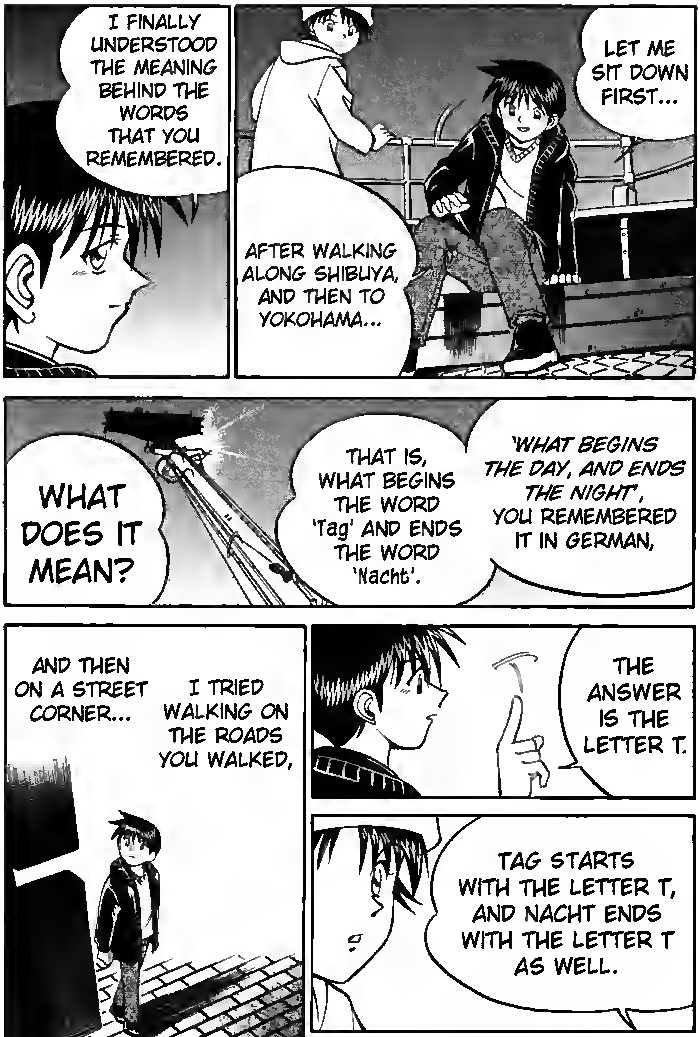

12月31日
23:29
YOKO-
HAMA
YOKOHAMA
PORT,
HIKAWA-
MARU
氷川丸
HIKAWA MARU YOKOHAMA

WALKING TO CROSS THE RIVER, MEANS THAT THERE'S ICE SCATTERED IN THE RIVER.
'THE PLACE CLOSEST TO DEATH' IS WHEN A SHIP'S BILGE IS ONLY ONE PLANK FROM THE OCEAN.



NOTE. ITAGO ICHIMAI SHITA WA JIGOKU,

BELOW ONE PLANK OF THE SHIP LIES HELL. IT'S AN IDOM EXPRESSING THE HAZARDOUS NATURE OF A SAILOR'S LIFE, ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN THEM AND HELL (DEATH) IS THE BOTTOM PLANK OF THE SHIP. A PARALLEL ENGLISH IDIOM IS "THOSE WHO GO TO SEA ARE ONLY FOUR INCHES FROM DEATH"


I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD THE MEANING BEHIND THE WORDS THAT YOU REMEMBERED.
LET ME SIT DOWN FIRST...
AFTER WALKING ALONG SHIBUYA, AND THEN TO YOKOHAMA...
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
THAT IS, WHAT BEGINS THE WORD 'Tag' AND ENDS THE WORD 'Nacht'.
'WHAT BEGINS THE DAY, AND ENDS THE NIGHT', YOU REMEMBERED IT IN GERMAN,
AND THEN ON A STREET CORNER...
I TRIED WALKING ON THE ROADS YOU WALKED,
THE ANSWER IS THE LETTER T.
TAG STARTS WITH THE LETTER T, AND NACHT ENDS WITH THE LETTER T AS WELL.

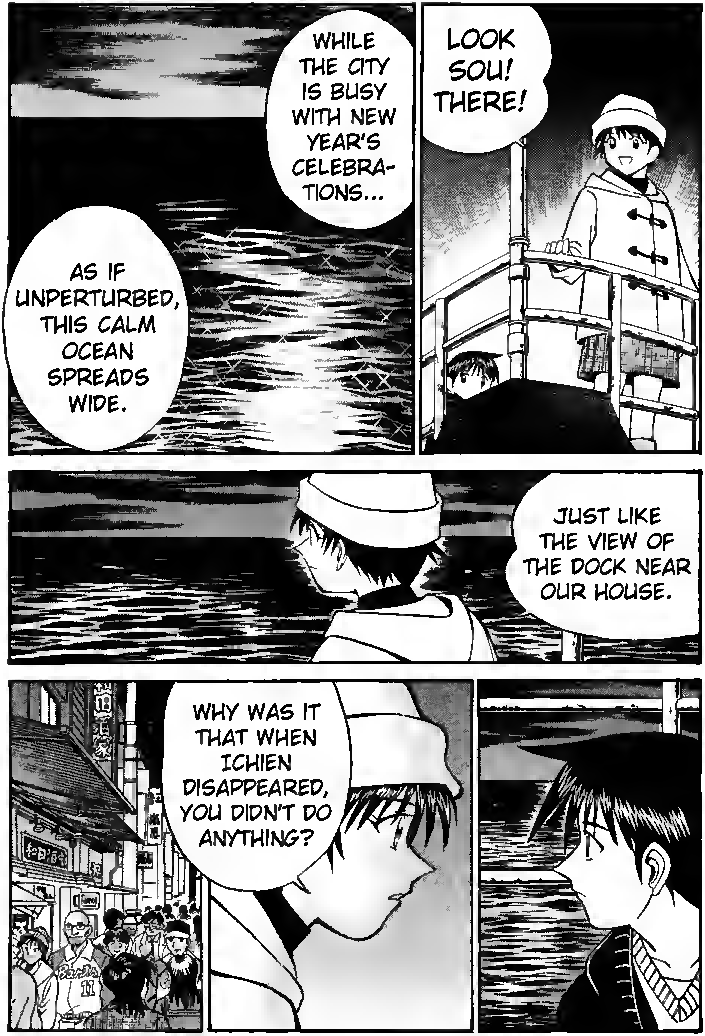
T SHOP!
TEA SHOP!
TEA POT, TEA CUP.
AND THEN I TRIED TO SOLVE THAT RIDDLE.
AFTER I FIGURED THAT OUT, I KNEW YUU WAS OBSESSED WITH THE LETTER T.
THE FIRST THING YOU SAW WHEN YOU FIRST CAME IN WAS A TORII.
CLOSE TO THAT PLACE, THERE IS A SHRINE,

TORII: A SHINTO SHRINE'S GATE. IT MARKS THE TRANSITION FROM A SACRED PLACE TO THE NORMAL WORLD. THE "TORI" USES THE SAME KANJI AS BIRD.

AND AT THE PLACE TO WASH YOUR HANDS THERE'S A PICTURE OF A CAT.
AND THEN THERE'S A KOMA -INU...
THE TOWN MUSICIANS OF BREMEN ...
THERE'S A BIRD, A DOG AND A CAT...
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS A DONKEY, AND IF IT'S THERE, THEY CAN PLAY MUSIC.
YUU WAS LOOKING FOR THOSE ANIMALS AT THE SHRINE
THE FAIRY-TALE "TOWN MUSICIANS OF BREMEN" TELLS THE STORY OF A ROOSTER, DOG, CAT, AND DONKEY WHO WENT TOGETHER TO BREMEN TO PLAY MUSIC.

AH... YES!
BECAUSE OF THAT, I LOOKED AT THE SHRINE'S EMA* AND THOUGHT "IF THERE'S ONE WITH A HORSE..."
YES, EVERY-THING IS OVER NOW.
A MIKO AT THE SHRINE TESTIFIED THAT SHE REMEMBERED YOU AND THE OJI-SAN WHO OWNS THE STORE APOLOGIZED.
OH, REALLY !?

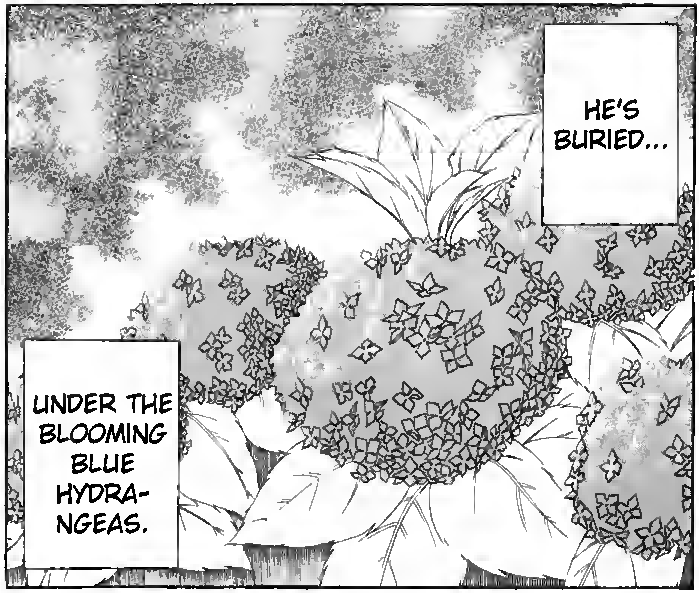
NOTE: EMA ARE SMALL PLAQUES FOUND AT SHINTO SHRINES, OFTEN WITH DRAWINGS OF ANIMALS ON THEM. WORSHIPPERS WRITE THEIR WISH ON THE EMA AND THEN HANG IT UP FOR THE GOD OF THE SHRINE TO FULFILL THEIR WISH. HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/EMA (SHINTO)

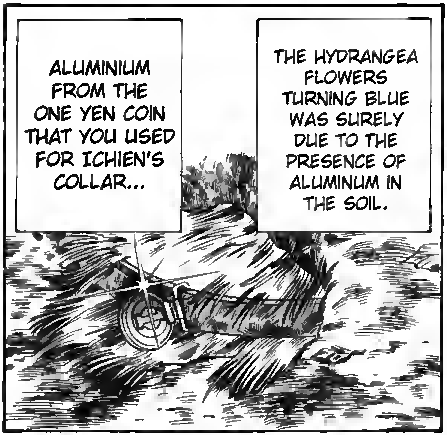

WHILE THE CITY IS BUSY WITH NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS...
AS IF UNPERTURBED, THIS CALM OCEAN SPREADS WIDE.
LOOK SOU! THERE!
JUST LIKE THE VIEW OF THE DOCK NEAR OUR HOUSE.
WHY WAS IT THAT WHEN ICHIEN DISAPPEARED, YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING?

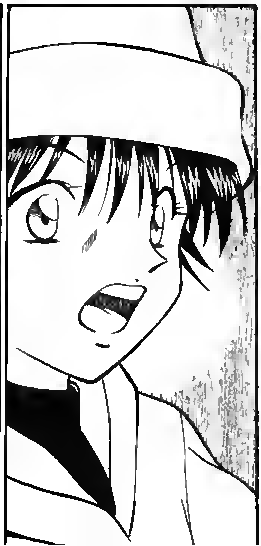
BECAUSE I'M ALWAYS CLUMSY, ALWAYS MAKING MISTAKES AND MONOPOLIZING MOM AND DAD'S ATTENTION!?
WAS IT BECAUSE YOU HATED ME!?
RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE GATHERING HERE...
ARE YOU GOING TO HATSU-MODE?
AND FOR THAT REASON, YOU IMME-DIATELY RELEASED THEM!
IT'S THE SAME AS WITH THE LITTLE BIRDS AND SQUIRRELS IN THE PARK! EVEN THOUGH YOU TOOK THE TROUBLE OF LOOKING AFTER THEM, AND ACCOMPANIED THEM, YOU DON'T FEEL ANYTHING!
YOU DON'T HAVE THE FEELING OF LOVE OR ANYTHING!
FOR YOU IT'S THE SAME FOR ANYONE!

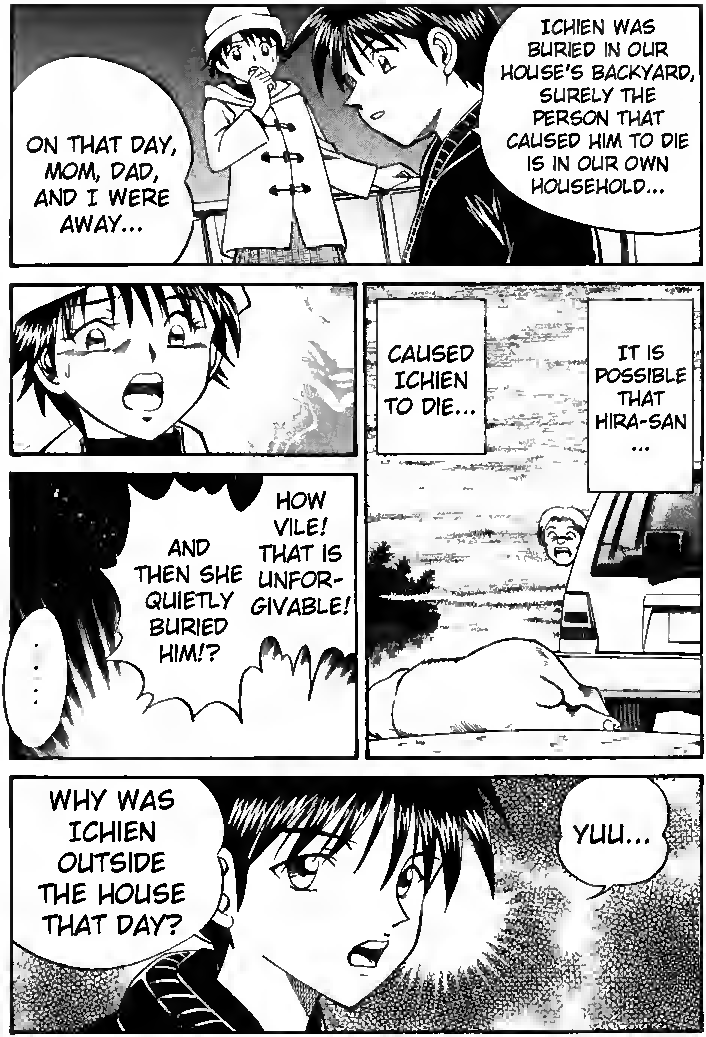
HATSUMODE: THE FIRST SHRINE VISIT OF THE NEW YEAR.
HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/HATSUM%C5%8DDE

WHETHER IT'S THERE OR NOT, IT DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFE-RENCE!
SPLASH
SO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY ICHIEN DIS-APPEARED?
O, OF COURSE!


HE'S BURIED...
UNDER THE BLOOMING BLUE HYDRA-NGEAS.


ALUMINIUM FROM THE ONE YEN COIN THAT YOU USED FOR ICHIEN'S COLLAR...
THE HYDRANGEA FLOWERS TURNING BLUE WAS SURELY DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF ALUMINUM IN THE SOIL.




ON THAT DAY, MOM, DAD, AND I WERE AWAY...
ICHIEN WAS BURIED IN OUR HOUSE'S BACKYARD, SURELY THE PERSON THAT CAUSED HIM TO DIE IS IN OUR OWN HOUSEHOLD...
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HIRA-SAN ...
CAUSED ICHIEN TO DIE...
HOW VILE! THAT IS UNFOR-GIVABLE!
AND THEN SHE QUIETLY BURIED HIM!?
...
YUU...
WHY WAS ICHIEN OUTSIDE THE HOUSE THAT DAY?

AND THEN...
I ALWAYS PUT HIM OUTSIDE AT NIGHT SO HE COULD GO TO THE BATHROOM ...,
EH?
AH... THE TV SHOW!
'U' IS YOU
YOUR ATTENTION MUST'VE BEEN DIVERTED TO SOMETHING ELSE...
BUT YOU MUST'VE FORGOTTEN TO LET HIM BACK INSIDE THE HOUSE RIGHT?
I WAS THE ONE WHO KILLED ICHIEN!
IT WAS ME!
THUD

YES! IN A FEW MINUTES WE WILL ENTER THE YEAR 2000!
ALL THE SHIPS IN YOKOHAMA WILL BLOW THEIR WHISTLES AT THE SAME TIME!
THAT'S WHY SOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!
MEMORIES WILL REMAIN, EVEN IF YOU ARE FAR APART.
THAT'S WHY I SET THEM FREE ...
EVEN THE BIRDS AND SQUIRRELS THAT I HELPED, WILL NEVER FORGET ME...

IF YOU REALLY LOVED HIM...
IF HE'S REALLY IMPORTANT...
EVEN THOUGH YOU WILL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN...
SURELY YOU WILL NEVER FORGET...
AS LONG AS THE FEELING'S STILL THERE,
AND ARE ABLE TO FACE THE NEW WORLD...
YOU WON'T FEEL ANY LONELI-NESS...

YES!
AND THAT'S WHY, FOR ICHIEN AS WELL...
ハオオ
HE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER ME...

quod erat demonstrandum

証明終了

Notes for Your Brain's Pleasure

p22

50 sounds: Including those without consonants, about 45 are commonly used, and the other 5 either don't exist anymore or became integrated with modern pronunciations.

Ga, gi ...: In Japanese, addition of diacritics (markings) changes the consonant from voiceless to voiced, like from k to g, or h to b.

p23

circle: This symbol changes h to p, so that's why Kana is confused when it's used with ka (カ).

megane: glasses

Beijing dialect: This is standard Mandarin, just like Tokyo dialect is standard Japanese.

80,000 sounds in English: I suppose this is related to consonant clusters. In Japanese, the most is two adjacent consonants, but in English, five is the limit (as in the word angsts.)

p24

shigure: early summer rain

samidare: late autumn/early winter rain, drizzle

tsuyu: rain in the rainy season

Well, what she says isn't really true, there are many words for rain in English, like downpour, drizzle, or shower. with different meanings for each. But we don't have many season related rain words for some reason.

p31

Ichien: This is ichi, meaning one, and en, which is yen, the Japanese currency. Also, 'chien' is French for dog. She is a polyglot, after all.

Extra Notes: Sponish conversotion ond more!

More about sounds in language:

In linguistics, phonology is the study of the patterns and systems of sounds, and speakers' intuitive knowledge about what sounds are allowed or not. An important part of phonology is the categorization of sounds into phonemes and allophones. A phoneme is a group of sounds that are treated as being functionally the same. It is contrastive, meaning that changing one phoneme changes the word. An example would be "cat" and "bat". /k/ and /b/ are both phonemes. What's this /k/ thing you ask? Well, in English, there are many sounds for one spelling, and vice versa. And in other languages, there are sounds which aren't even in English. The International Phonetic Alphabet fixes this by having one symbol per sound. And now on to allophones. An allophone is the physical expression of a phoneme. However, if two allophones are part of the same phoneme, you could pronounce the sound both ways, and the word would be interpreted the same by a listener. Between different languages, the allophones and phonemes differ. What might be contrastive in one language is treated as the same in another.

Notes for Your Brain's Pleasure

p77

Purifying water: This is o-chouzu, which is water for purifying a person's hands and mouth before they enter a shrine to worship.

p83

bilge: Bilge commonly refers to the water that collects in the bilge, which is the lowest part of a ship's hull(body).

Yuu's riddle solution: 'hikawa' means icy river. Therefore, combining this with the fact that Yuu wanted to go to Yokohama, Sou figures out that Yuu is on a ship called the Hikawamaru, in Yamashita Park, Yokohama. This is a real ship, so Sou probably was familiar with where this particular one is docked. You can visit it since it was refurbished in 2008.
http://www.nyk.com/rekishi/e/exhibitions/hikawa.htm

p86

Bremen Band: from a Brother's Grimm folk tale, the "Town Musicians of Bremen".
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Town_Musicians_of_Bremen

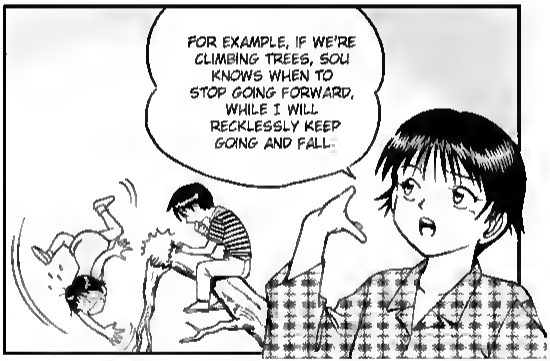
p91

Hydrangeas: These compose about 50-75 species of angiosperms, and grow in south and eastern Asia as well as North and South America. Hydrangeas are usually shrubs, but can be trees or vines. Hydrangeas are generally moderately toxic because they contain cyanogenic glycosides. A cyanogenic glycoside is a sugar attached to a cyanide molecule.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrangea

Uncertain memories: Part one

--Text Supplier: Lynossa--RAW cleaner: Motte--
--Translator: Saturn Beaver--Proofreader: Yasiru--
--Typesetter: rion601--Quality Checker: argentscarf--

NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED! THOUGH ALL I EVER GAINED WERE BRUISES...



THANKS FOR ANZU & DRACO 1988 FOR THE RAWS

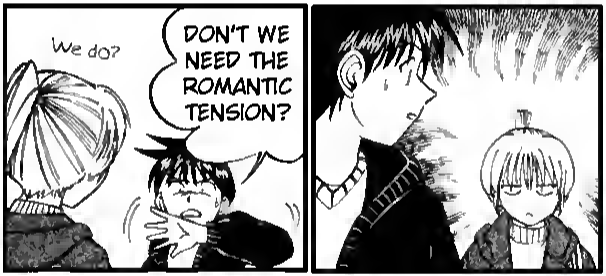
Orion Wave

Q.E.D

Uncertain memories: Part two

--Text Supplier and RAW cleaner: Lynossa--
--Translator: Saturn Beaver--Proofreader: Yasiru--
--Typesetter: Kirhidemi--Quality Checker: ryuuyasha--

"WHY WON'T YOU ASK ME OUT ALREADY?!"



"OH, THE TRIALS OF BEING IN A MANGA..."

THANKS FOR ANZU & DRACO 1988 FOR THE RAWS

Orion Wave

Q.E.D

Uncertain memories: Part three

--Text Supplier: Lynossa--RAW cleaner: Motte--
--Translator: Saturn Beaver--Proofreader: Yasiru--
--Typesetter: alltimelove--Quality Checker: Hacko--

So many stores... crap, I forgot to buy souvenirs!
Why did we have to spend so much time at the 109?!

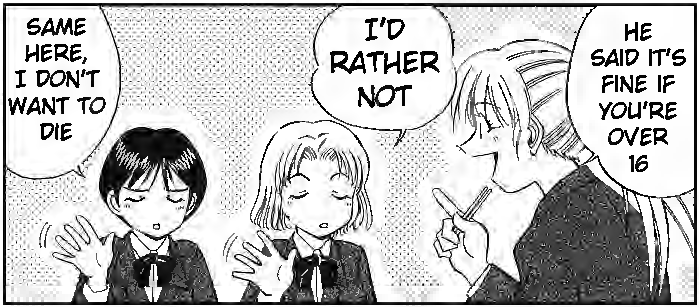
Thanks for Anzu & Draco 1988
for the raws

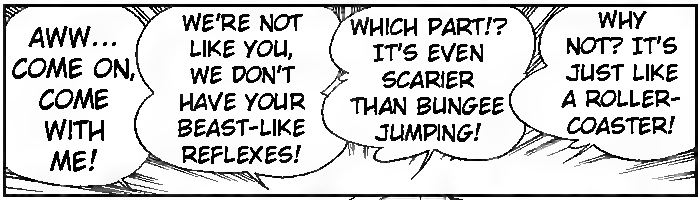
Orion Wave

Q.E.D

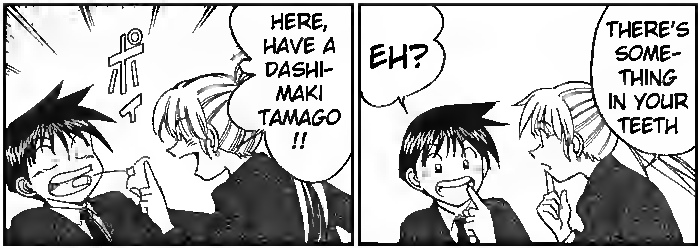
Coloring by Gobi

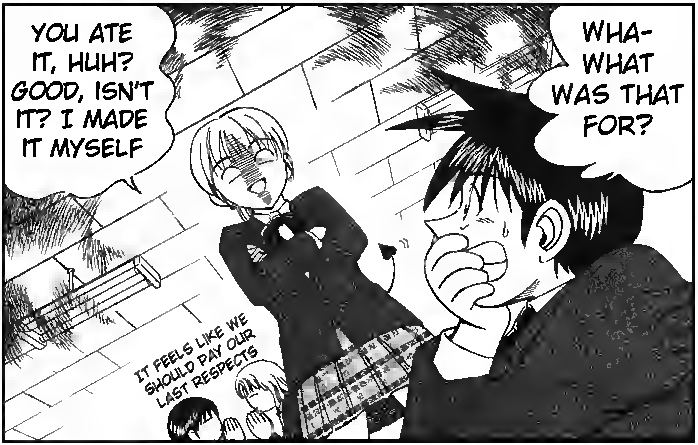
ISN'T IT EXPEN-SIVE?
NO, NOT REALLY
ONE OF MY NEIGHBORS KNOWS SOMEONE WHO'S AN INSTRUCTOR
HE SAID HE'LL TEACH ANY-ONE WHO'S INTERESTED

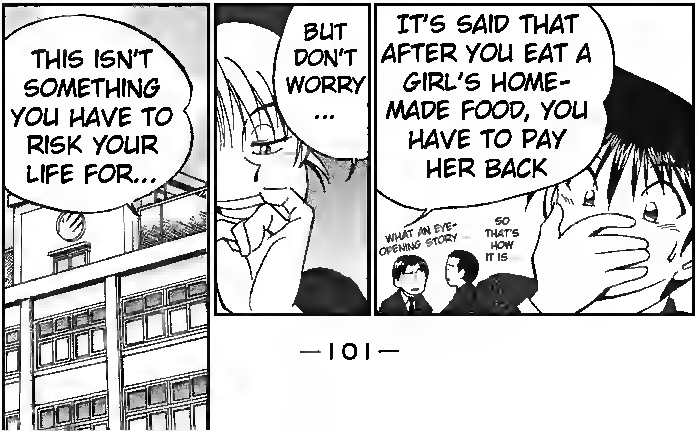

SAME HERE, I DON'T WANT TO DIE
I'D RATHER NOT
HE SAID IT'S FINE IF YOU'RE OVER 16


AWW... COME ON, COME WITH ME!
WE'RE NOT LIKE YOU, WE DON'T HAVE YOUR BEAST-LIKE REFLEXES!
WHICH PART!? IT'S EVEN SCARIER THAN BUNGEE JUMPING!
WHY NOT? IT'S JUST LIKE A ROLLER-COASTER!

YES
TOUMA-KUN, YOU JUST BOUGHT LUNCH?
SHE JUST FOUND A VICTIM


ポイ
HERE, HAVE A DASHI-MAKI TAMAGO !!
EH?
THERE'S SOME-THING IN YOUR TEETH


YOU ATE IT, HUH? GOOD, ISN'T IT? I MADE IT MYSELF
WHA-WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
IT FEELS LIKE WE SHOULD PAY OUR LAST RESPECTS


THIS ISN'T SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO RISK YOUR LIFE FOR...
BUT DON'T WORRY ...
IT'S SAID THAT AFTER YOU EAT A GIRL'S HOME-MADE FOOD, YOU HAVE TO PAY HER BACK
WHAT AN EYE-OPENING STORY
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS

青の密室

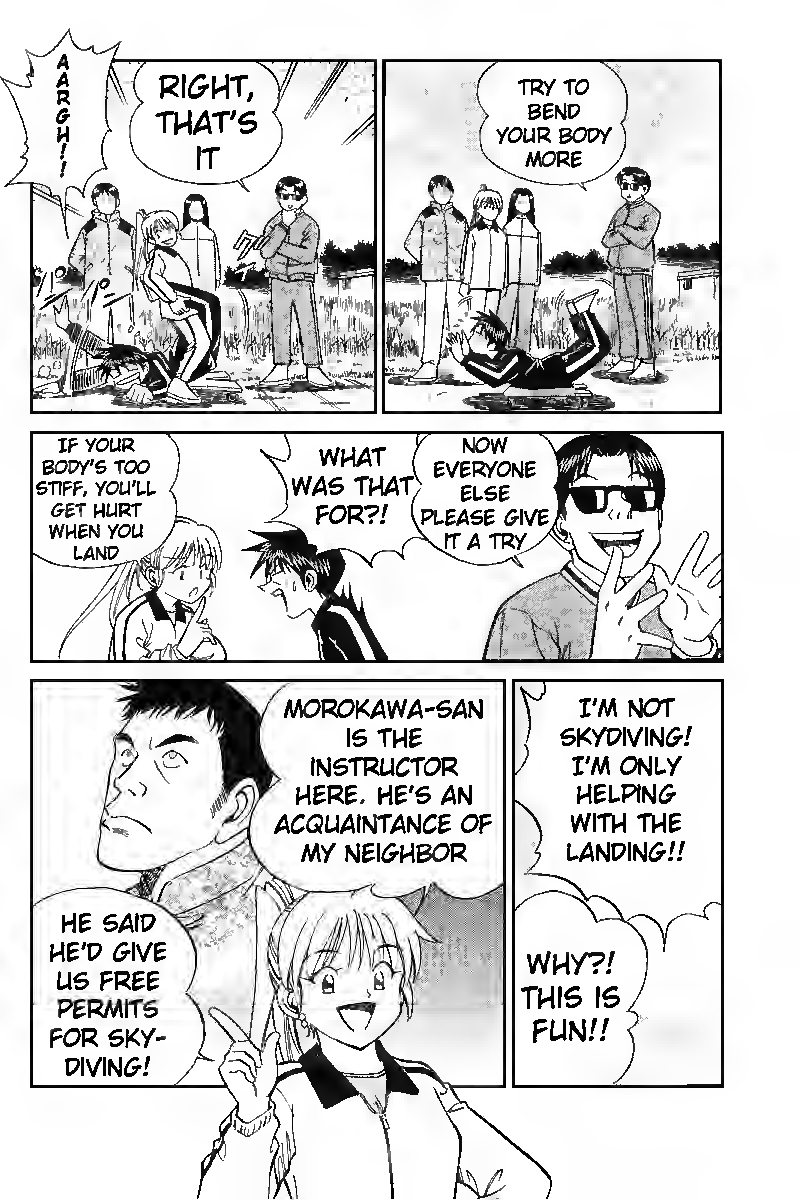
ウル
WE'RE AT THE EXIT POINT!
nomaki
YOU SEEM DOWN. YOU ALL RIGHT, NOMAKI?
nomaki
I SUD-DENLY HAD A BAD FEELING ABOUT TODAY
IT'S JUST ...
YEAH, KAMA-KURA, I'M FINE...
nomaki

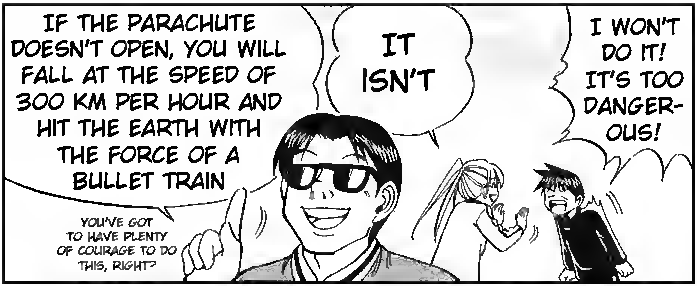
HEY, NOMAKI! STOP SPOUTING CRAP BEFORE YOU JUMP!
kuma
moroka
S-SORRY, MORO-KAWA-SAN
LET'S SEE IF THE CLOUDS CLEARED UP ENOUGH TO SEE THE DROP ZONE
IT'S CLEAR !!

WOW... UOMAKI'S ALWAYS PUMPED UP WHENEVER WE'RE ABOUT TO JUMP
Morokau
GREAT! IF THIS KEEPS UP, WE CAN JUMP
HA HA, IS THAT SO?
ALRIGHT! TIME TO JUMP!!
YEAH !!

READY !!
morokawa
kumakun
nom
SET !!
GO !!

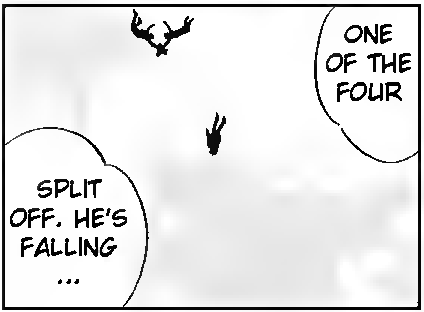
SKYDIV
INFO
IT'S THE BASIC POSITION WHEN DIVING
THIS IS THE NEUTRAL POSITION

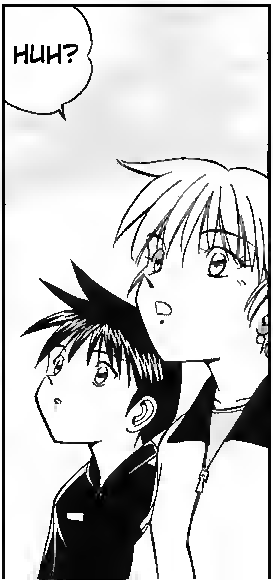

AARGH!!
RIGHT, THAT'S IT
TRY TO BEND YOUR BODY MORE
IF YOUR BODY'S TOO STIFF, YOU'LL GET HURT WHEN YOU LAND
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
NOW EVERYONE ELSE PLEASE GIVE IT A TRY
MOROKAWA-SAN IS THE INSTRUCTOR HERE. HE'S AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MY NEIGHBOR
HE SAID HE'D GIVE US FREE PERMITS FOR SKY-DIVING!
I'M NOT SKYDIVING! I'M ONLY HELPING WITH THE LANDING!!
WHY?! THIS IS FUN!!


IF THE PARACHUTE DOESN'T OPEN, YOU WILL FALL AT THE SPEED OF 300 KM PER HOUR AND HIT THE EARTH WITH THE FORCE OF A BULLET TRAIN
YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE PLENTY OF COURAGE TO DO THIS, RIGHT?
IT ISN'T
I WON'T DO IT! IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!

LOOK! THERE HE IS!

MORO-KAWA-SAN IS DIVING NOW

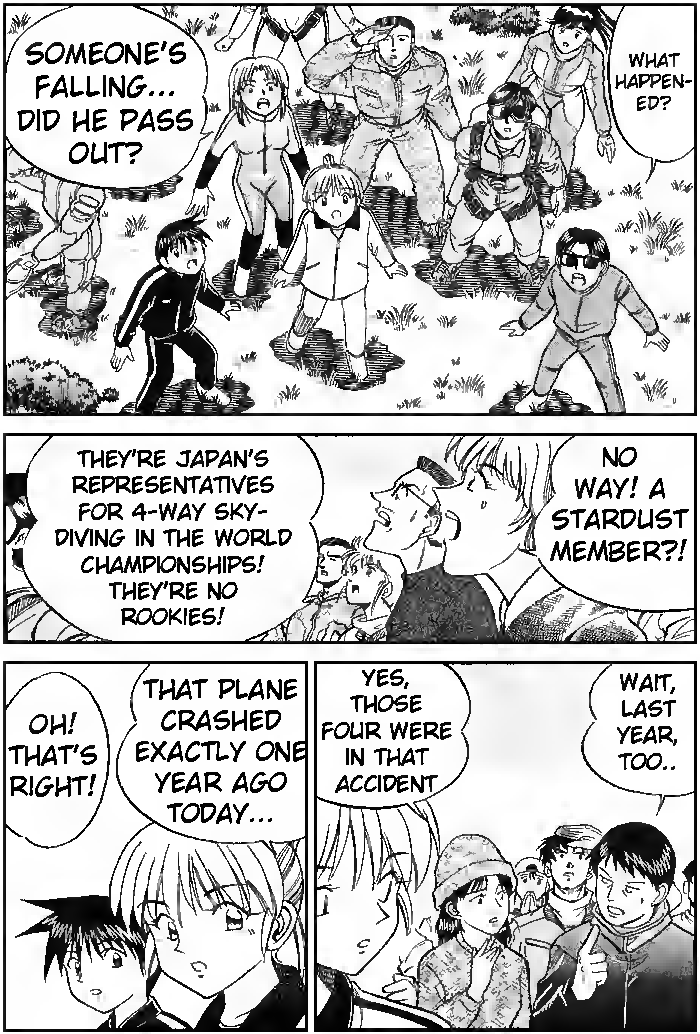

ONE OF THE FOUR
SPLIT OFF. HE'S FALLING ...


HUH?

TAKE THE NEUTRAL POSI-TION!!
NOMAKI !! WHAT'S WRONG !?

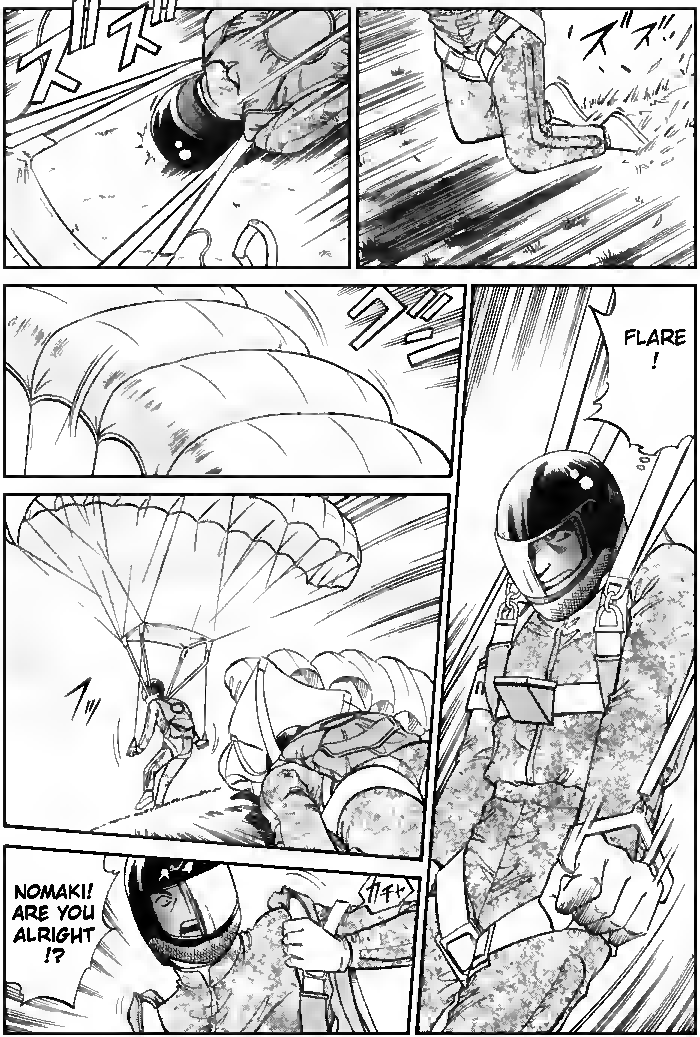
DID HE PASS OUT!?
NOMAKI !?
FORGET THE FORM-ATION !!
BREAK !!
KUMIKO
NOMAKI

KUMAKURA, UOWAKI, WAIT IN THE DROP ZONE!!
GOT IT, MORO-KAWA-SAN
I'LL GET HIM!

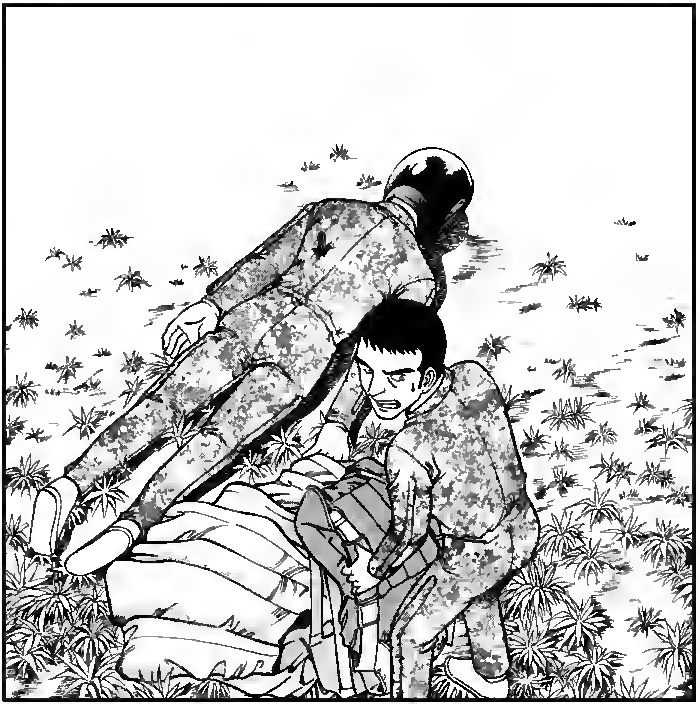

SOMEONE'S FALLING... DID HE PASS OUT?
WHAT HAPPENED?
THEY'RE JAPAN'S REPRESENTATIVES FOR 4-WAY SKY-DIVING IN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS! THEY'RE NO ROOKIES!
NO WAY! A STARDUST MEMBER?!
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT PLANE CRASHED EXACTLY ONE YEAR AGO TODAY...
YES, THOSE FOUR WERE IN THAT ACCIDENT
WAIT, LAST YEAR, TOO..

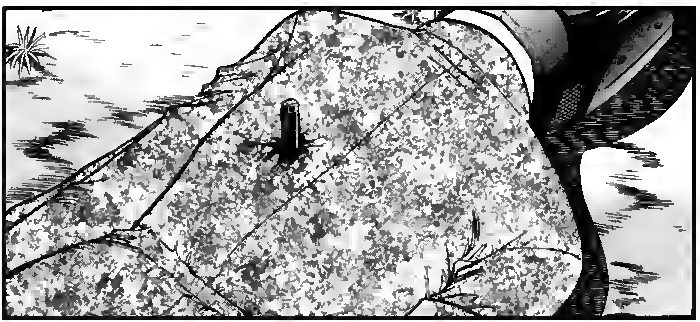
THANK GOODNESS. IT LOOKS LIKE HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT
DON'T BE SO SURE!
OH! THE CHUTE OPENED!
IT MAY HAVE JUST ACTIV-ATED
IT'S SAID THAT AADS ARE INSTALLED IN CHUTES THESE DAYS
IT'S AN ATTACHED SAFETY DEVICE THAT AUTOMAT-ICALLY OPENS THE CHUTE IF IT DESCENDS BELOW A CERTAIN ALTITUDE
I CAN'T TELL FROM HERE
IS HE CONS-CIOUS?
KUMAKURA AND UOWAKI WENT TO THE DROP ZONE. I'LL GET NOMAKI
ROGER!

GOT IT!
YOU TWO, COME WITH ME!
I'M AFRAID HE'LL GET HURT IF HE CAN'T FLARE BEFORE HE HITS THE GROUND
YOU GUYS HEAD TO THE LANDING POINT!
HUH ?!
WE'RE GOING, TOO!

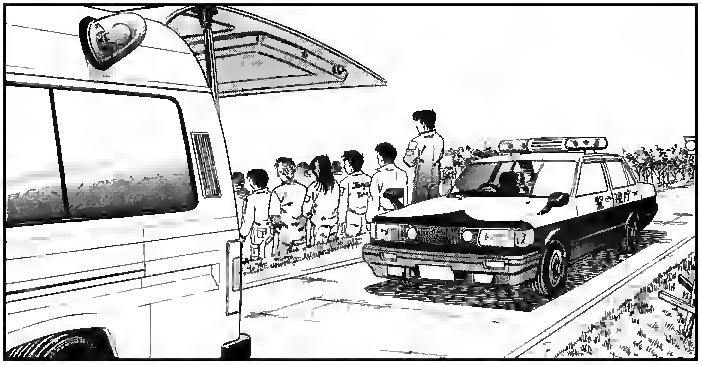

ズザザ
ズズ
ゴゴ
FLARE!
NOMAKI! ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?
ガチャ

OVER THERE !!
THERE THEY ARE !!
ANSWER ME!!
DO WE NEED AN AMBU-LANCE!?
I DON'T... GET IT...
IS HE HURT!?
MOROKAWA! HOW'S NOMAKI!?
!!





WHEN I TOOK THE CHUTE OFF HIS BACK, THE KNIFE ...
HOW IN THE WORLD DID THIS HAPPEN?! WE WERE IN THE SKY...
YOU GUYS SAW IT, RIGHT?
THEN HOW IN THE WORLD ...
HOW IN THE WORLD DID THIS HAPPEN!?



AH! EXCUSE ME!
MAKE WAY!

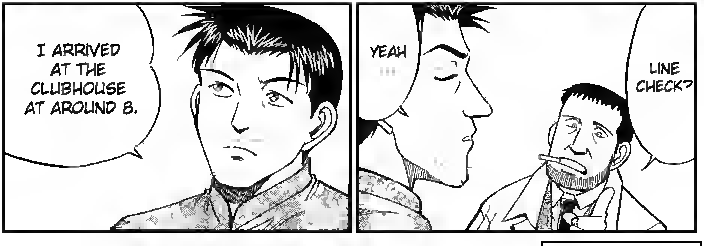
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU SHOULD INTERROGATE THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE!

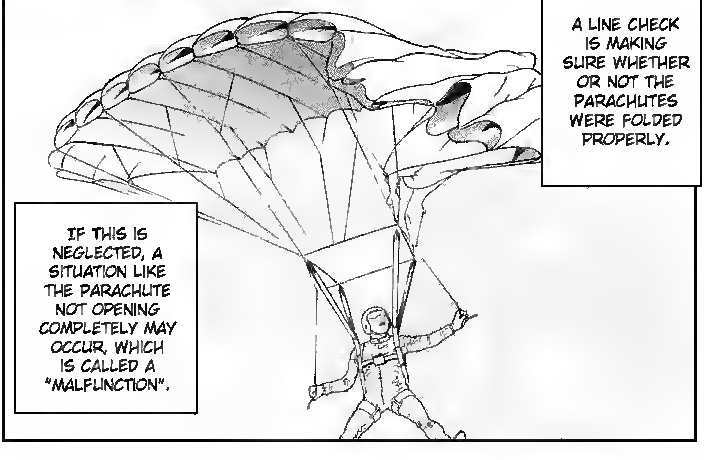
NOMAKI WAS STABBED IN MID-AIR!
MORIOKAWA SHIZUO (32), STARDUST'S LEADER.
HE WAS STILL TALKING TO US ON THE PLANE!
.....
KUMAKURA SHUICHI (25), STARDUST MEMBER.
UOWAKI MINORU (31), STARDUST MEMBER.

COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TODAY IN GREATER DETAIL?
CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE SAVED FOR LATER...
NOW, NOW... IF MY SUPERIORS HEAR ABOUT THIS, I'LL GET SCOLDED...
IT'S A SKYDIVING TECHNIQUE WHERE FOUR PEOPLE JUMP TOGETHER AND MAKE A FORMATION TO SCORE POINTS.
4-WAY?
TODAY WAS PRACTICE FOR THE 4-WAY.
WE WERE PRACTICING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT NEXT SUMMER.
HMM...
IF THERE ARE EIGHT PEOPLE, IT'S CALLED AN 8-WAY, AND IF THERE ARE A HUNDRED PEOPLE, IT'S CALLED A 100-WAY...
IT'S OFTEN SHOWN ON TV, RIGHT? A GROUP OF PEOPLE JUMP AND MAKE VARIOUS SHAPES.

I ARRIVED AT THE DROP ZONE..... THAT IS TO SAY, THE PLACE WHERE YOU'RE ALLOWED TO SKYDIVE, AT 6 AM.
UNTIL AROUND 8 O'CLOCK, I DID A LOT OF THINGS, SUCH AS SETTING UP TENTS FOR INFORMATION BOOTHS.
SO AT AROUND 8:30, I WENT TO THE NEARBY AIRFIELD.
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO SKYDIVE AT 9 O'CLOCK.
THEN, I WENT OVER TO THE STARDUST CLUBHOUSE BY THE NEXT RUNWAY FOR A MOMENT.
WELL... THOUGH I SAY CLUBHOUSE, IT'S JUST A ONE-WINDOW ONE-DOOR PREFAB...

KUMAKURA WAS PERFORMING A LINE CHECK ON THE PARACHUTE
WHEN I PEEKED INSIDE THROUGH THE ONLY WINDOW,


I ARRIVED AT THE CLUBHOUSE AT AROUND 8.
YEAH ...
LINE CHECK?


A LINE CHECK IS MAKING SURE WHETHER OR NOT THE PARACHUTES WERE FOLDED PROPERLY.
IF THIS IS NEGLECTED, A SITUATION LIKE THE PARACHUTE NOT OPENING COMPLETELY MAY OCCUR, WHICH IS CALLED A "MALFUNCTION".

..... BEFORE, HUH....
HAS ANYONE DIED BECAUSE OF THAT?
A TINY MISTAKE CAN CAUSE A FATAL ACCIDENT AFTER ALL
HMM.. THAT'S PRETTY SCARY ...
IF YOU'RE EXPERIENCED, YOU'D DO THINGS LIKE MANIPULATE THE PARACHUTE TO COMPENSATE FOR IT NOT OPENING COMPLETELY,
OR UNLINK THE MAIN PARACHUTE AND DEPLOY THE BACKUP ONE, BUT...

WELL ...IT'S PRETTY EMBAR-RASSING ...
ME?
SO, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
HIBER-NATING AGAIN?
IT WAS PROBABLY AROUND 8:20.... I WENT TO THE CLUBHOUSE AND GOT MY PARACHUTE FROM KUMAKURA.
FOCUS, FOCUS ...
I DO THAT SO I DON'T THINK OF UNNECESSARY THINGS AND GET NERVOUS.
AND THEN I WAITED IN THE PLANE UNTIL TAKEOFF.

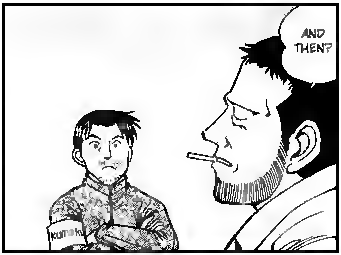
NOMAKI ARRIVED AT AROUND 8.40
YOU NERVOUS AGAIN?
HEY NOMAKI -SAN!
YOU SHOULD TRY CHEWING SOME GUM.
HE HE... A LITTLE.
YOU SHOULD TRY CHEWING SOME GUM.
I ALSO SAW NOMAKI TODAY AT THAT TIME.

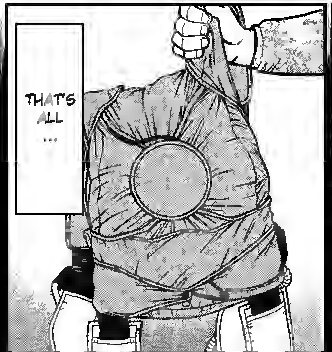
.....

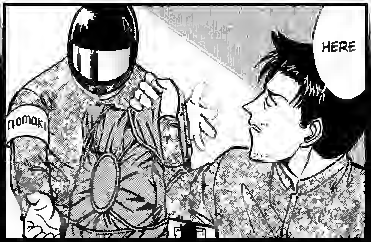
MORO-
KAWA-SAN,
WHERE'S
KUMAKURA?
INSIDE,
FOLDING
THE PARA-
CHUTES.

THEN HE
WENT INSIDE
TO GET HIS
PARACHUTE.

WHEN HE
ARRIVED, I
GAVE HIM HIS
PARACHUTE.

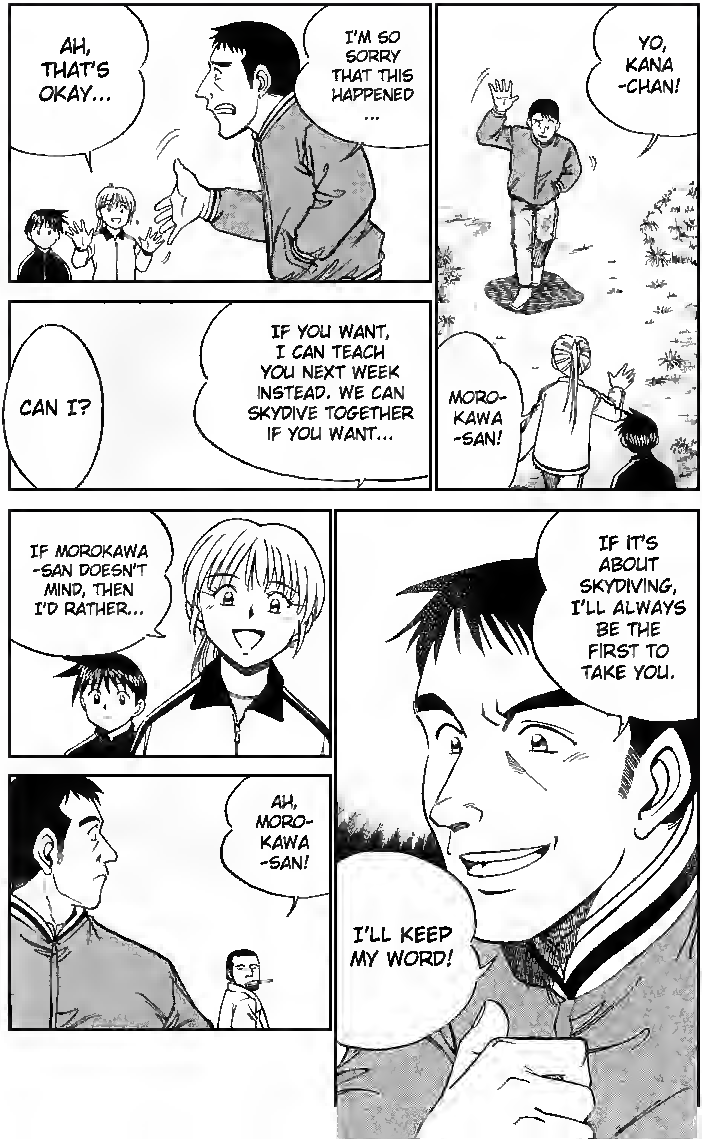

AND
THEN?


THAT'S
ALL
...


HERE

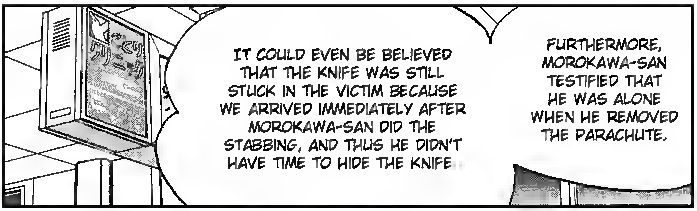
WE TOOK OFF AT JUST AFTER 9 AM.
AND HEADED TOWARDS THE DROP ZONE.
NOMAKI AND UOMAKI -SAN SAT NEAR THE COCKPIT.
THE FOUR OF US WERE IN A SECTION SEPARATE FROM THE COCKPIT.
MOROKAWA -SAN AND I SAT NEAR THE BACK.
HOO... WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?
BEATS ME.
AFTER THE PLANE TOOK OFF, NOMAKI SUDDENLY DIDN'T LOOK SO WELL.

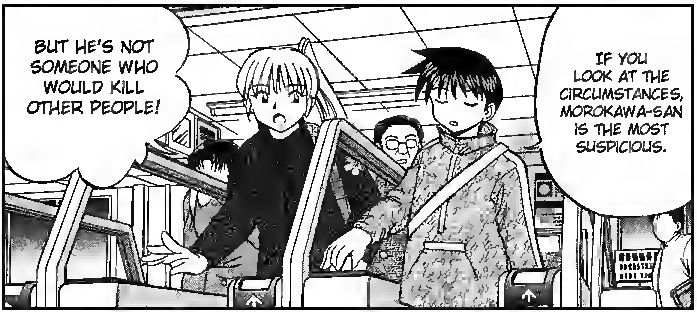
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, JUST BEFORE HE JUMPED..
...THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
THE RUMOUR ABOUT THAT ACCIDENT LAST YEAR...
IT'S REALLY THAT, ISN'T IT ...?
HMM... A BAD FEELING ...
AFTER WE JUMPED...
I WON'T SAY IT SINCE YOU ALREADY KNOW...


AH, THAT'S OKAY...
I'M SO SORRY THAT THIS HAPPENED ...
YO, KANA -CHAN!
MORO- KAWA -SAN!
IF YOU WANT, I CAN TEACH YOU NEXT WEEK INSTEAD. WE CAN SKYDIVE TOGETHER IF YOU WANT...
CAN I?
IF MOROKAWA -SAN DOESN'T MIND, THEN I'D RATHER..
IF IT'S ABOUT SKYDIVING, I'LL ALWAYS BE THE FIRST TO TAKE YOU.
AH, MORO- KAWA -SAN!
I'LL KEEP MY WORD!

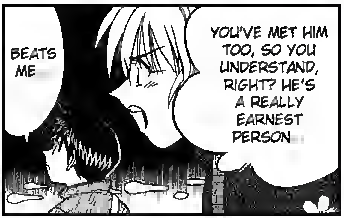
ME?
I'D LIKE TO INTERROGATE YOU FURTHER THIS WEEK WOULD YOU MIND COMING TO THE POLICE STATION?
AT LEAST THE POLICE THINKS SO.
MOROKAWA -SAN DID IT?

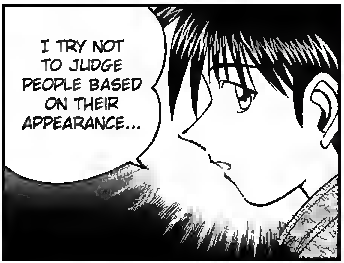
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO STAB SOMEONE MID-AIR,
SO OF COURSE THE POLICE WOULD SUSPECT THAT MOROKAWA-SAN STABBED THE VICTIM ON THE GROUND, WHEN NOBODY WAS LOOKING...
WHOOSH
AH, IN THAT CASE, ANYONE COULD'VE KILLED HIM AFTER HE LANDED ON THE GROUND, RIGHT?
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
IT'S BECAUSE NOMAKI-SAN WAS STABBED BY THE KNIFE UNDER HIS PARACHUTE.
HAD IT BEEN A RANDOM RUFFIAN, HE WOULDN'T HAVE STABBED HIM IN SUCH A MANNER.


IT COULD EVEN BE BELIEVED THAT THE KNIFE WAS STILL STUCK IN THE VICTIM BECAUSE WE ARRIVED IMMEDIATELY AFTER MOROKAWA-SAN DID THE STABBING, AND THUS HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO HIDE THE KNIFE...
FURTHERMORE, MOROKAWA-SAN TESTIFIED THAT HE WAS ALONE WHEN HE REMOVED THE PARACHUTE.


BUT HE'S NOT SOMEONE WHO WOULD KILL OTHER PEOPLE!
IF YOU LOOK AT THE CIRCUMSTANCES, MOROKAWA-SAN IS THE MOST SUSPICIOUS.

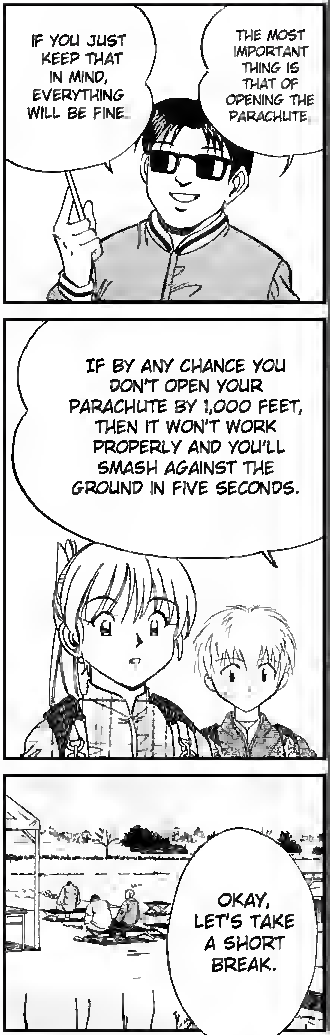
REMEMBER, MIZUHARA-SAN..
BUT ...!

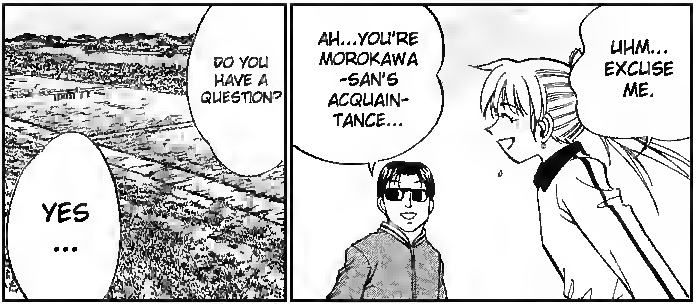

BEATS ME
YOU'VE MET HIM TOO, SO YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT? HE'S A REALLY EARNEST PERSON...

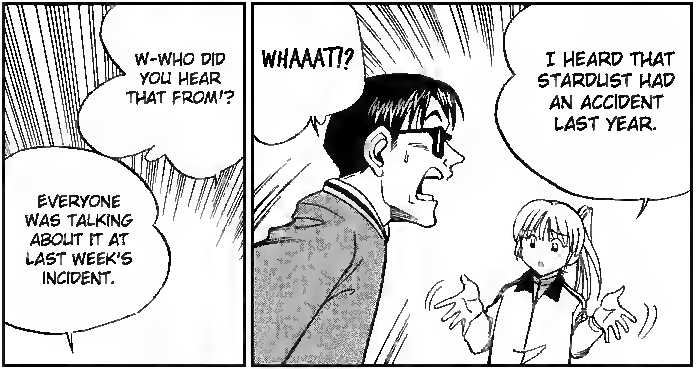

I TRY NOT TO JUDGE PEOPLE BASED ON THEIR APPEARANCE...

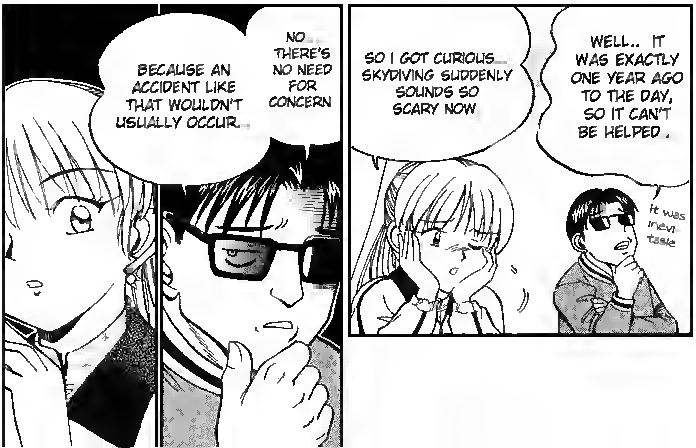
PEOPLE ARE STIRRED BY A MENTALITY, DEEP WITHIN THEMSELVES,
THAT LEADS TO MURDER.
SOMETIMES THEIR TRUE FEELINGS DON'T SHOW ON THE SURFACE.
THAT'S WHY WE MUST LOOK DEEPER TO LEARN HIS TRUE EMOTIONS.
IN OTHER WORDS, MOTIVE.
THAT ...
FOR INSTANCE, TODAY, THE PEOPLE AROUND US WERE SOMEHOW CAUGHT UP TALKING ABOUT ONE THING,
THAT STARDUST HAD AN ACCIDENT EXACTLY ONE YEAR AGO...

Next Saturday
That device is called an altimeter...
It shows your current altitude.
Normally, skydiving jumps are done at an altitude of 12,500 feet,
or roughly 4000 meters, just a little higher than Mount Fuji.

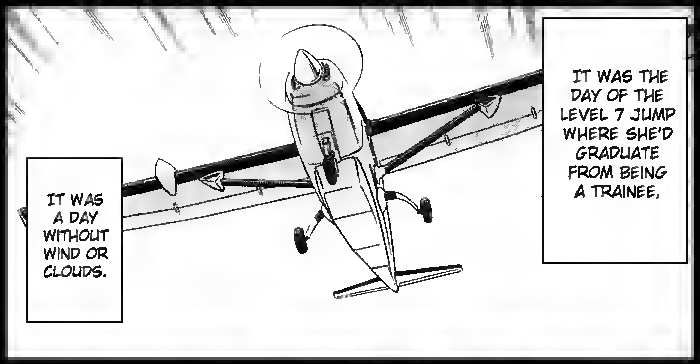

IF YOU JUST KEEP THAT IN MIND, EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT OF OPENING THE PARACHUTE.
12500 フィート
THEN YOU FREE FALL UNTIL AROUND 5,500 FEET, WHERE YOU CHECK IF THE CONDITIONS ARE SAFE FOR OPENING THE PARACHUTE.
5500 フィート OK
5000 フィート
AT AROUND 5,000 FEET, YOU OPEN THE PARACHUTE.
IF BY ANY CHANCE YOU DON'T OPEN YOUR PARACHUTE BY 1,000 FEET, THEN IT WON'T WORK PROPERLY AND YOU'LL SMASH AGAINST THE GROUND IN FIVE SECONDS.
AND LAND, AIMING FOR THE MARKER ON THE GROUND...
OKAY, LET'S TAKE A SHORT BREAK.


DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?
YES ...
AH...YOU'RE MOROKAWA -SAN'S ACQUAIN-TANCE...
UHM... EXCUSE ME.

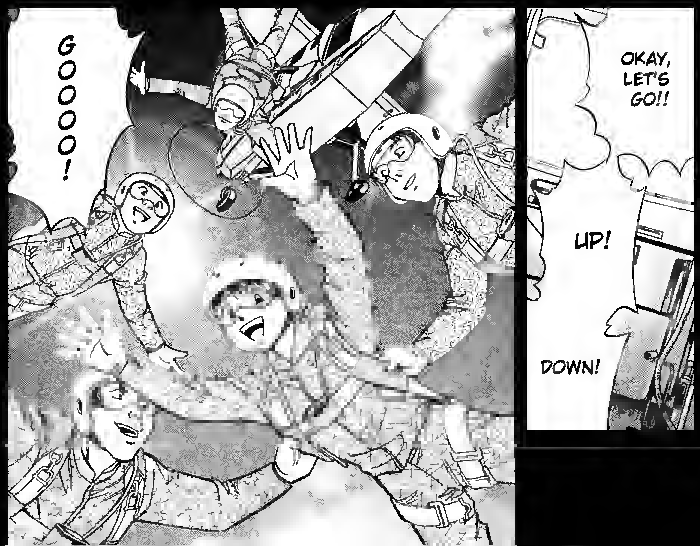

W-WHO DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM!?
EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT IT AT LAST WEEK'S INCIDENT.
WHAAAT!?
I HEARD THAT STARDUST HAD AN ACCIDENT LAST YEAR.


BECAUSE AN ACCIDENT LIKE THAT WOULDN'T USUALLY OCCUR.
NO... THERE'S NO NEED FOR CONCERN
SO I GOT CURIOUS... SKYDIVING SUDDENLY SOUNDS SO SCARY NOW
WELL... IT WAS EXACTLY ONE YEAR AGO TO THE DAY, SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
It was inevi-table

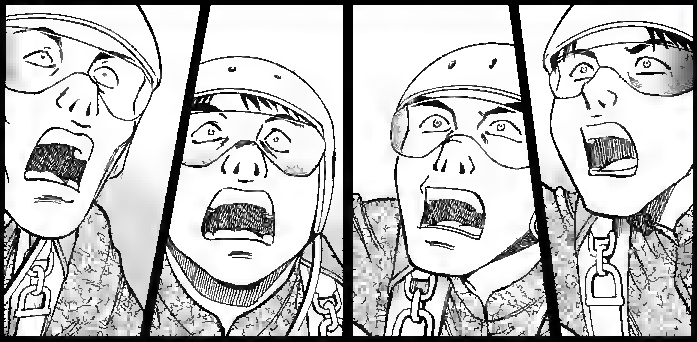
A WOMAN DIED...
HER NAME WAS TSUJI HIDEMI.
AH, KUMA-KURA-SAN.
HIDEMI
SHE WAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL AND CHEERFUL GIRL. JUST LIKE AN IDOL.
LET'S GO!
SHE WAS KUMAKURA -KUN'S GIRLFRIEND ...

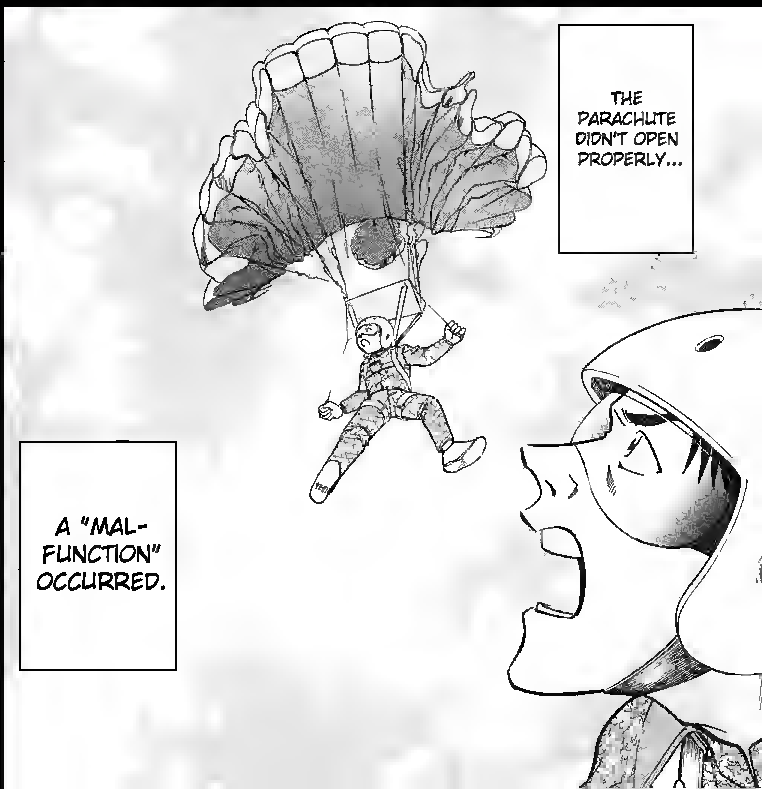

IT WAS THE DAY OF THE LEVEL 7 JUMP WHERE SHE'D GRADUATE FROM BEING A TRAINEE,
IT WAS A DAY WITHOUT WIND OR CLOUDS.

IN ADDITION, THE INSTRUCTORS WITH HER WERE THE FOUR PEOPLE OF STARDUST.
IT SEEMED LIKE AN ACCIDENT WAS DOWNRIGHT IMPOSSIBLE


OKAY, LET'S GO!!
UP!
DOWN!
GOOOO!

Back loop and tracking: http://www.veloce-skydive.com/pedagogie/uk.mouvements.html

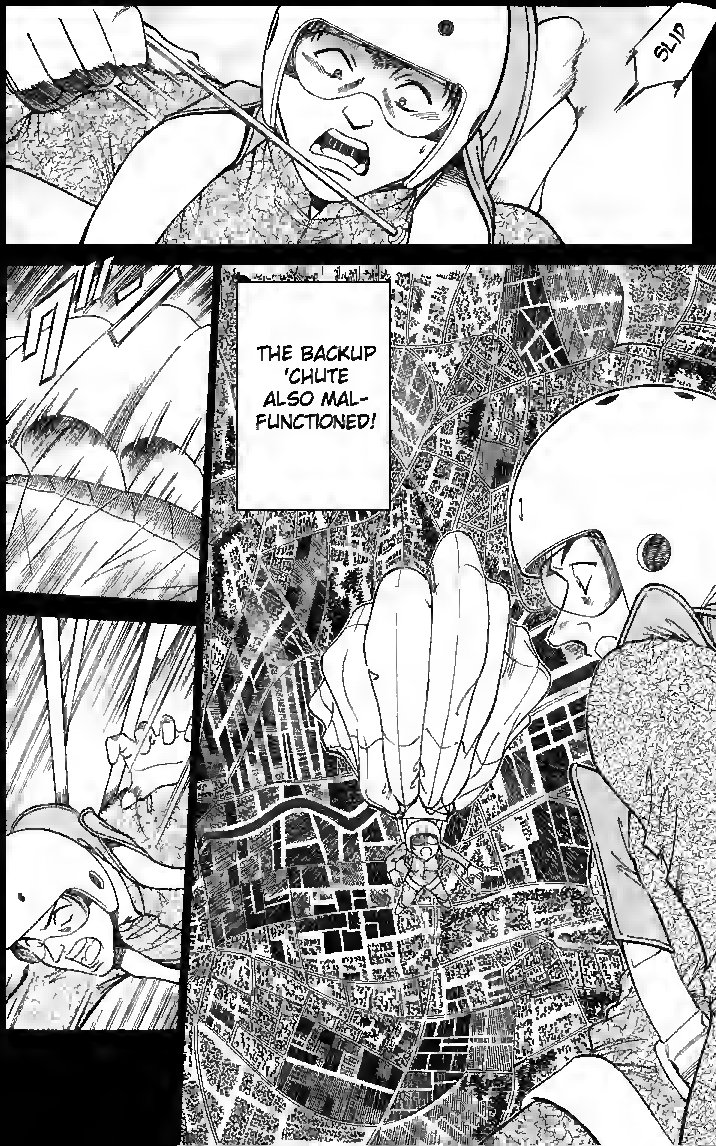



THE PARACHUTE DIDN'T OPEN PROPERLY...
A "MAL-FUNCTION" OCCURRED.

AH....
BUT SHE PANICKED ...
A VETERAN WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THAT SITUATION EASILY,
PULL
UKH!
KUMA -KURA !?

KUMA-KURA-SAN!
HIDEMI!
RI-RIGHT!
RELEASE THE MAIN PARACHUTE USE THE BACKUP!
THWIP
THWIP
THEY BOTH RELEASED THEIR MAIN PARACHUTES AND ENTRUSTED THEIR LIVES TO THE BACKUP PARACHUTE.

YOU GUYS HEAD TOWARDS THE DROP ZONE! I'LL SUPPORT THOSE TWO!
THAT GUY ALWAYS DOES WHATEVER HE WANTS ...
DURING FREE FALL, YOU FALL FASTER AS MORE TIME PASSES, DUE TO GRAVITY.
SHE WAS WAITING FOR THE COMMAND DURING THE PRECIOUS FEW SECONDS APPROACHING 1000 FEET.
O, OKAY!
OPEN IT NOW!
IT WAS REALLY AN UNBELIEVABLE ACCIDENT...
JERK

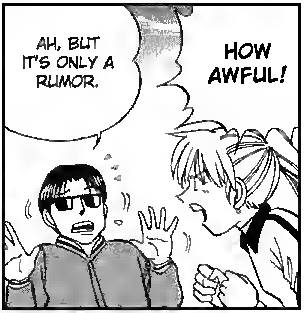

SLIP
THE BACKUP 'CHUTE ALSO MAL-FUNCTIONED!

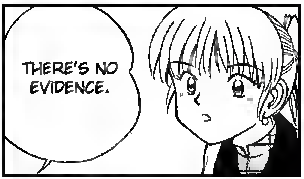
SHE HIT THE GROUND... AND DIED ON THE SPOT.
A WEIRD RUMOR?
TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, AFTER HER ACCIDENT, A WEIRD RUMOR SPREAD AROUND.
THAT'S WHY EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT IT.
IT HAPPENED EXACTLY ONE YEAR BEFORE THE INCIDENT LAST WEEK.
SOME PEOPLE WITNESSED IT...
IT SEEMS THAT NOMAKI, WHO WAS KILLED, WAS HITTING ON TSUJI-SAN.
HITTING ON A FRIEND'S GIRLFRIEND IS TABOO...

WELL, IT WAS BECAUSE SHE WAS A CUTE AND CHARMING GIRL.
WE DIDN'T JUST HAVE GOOD WILL FOR HER, YOU COULD SAY THAT EVERYONE ADORED HER.
ACTUALLY, THE PARACHUTE THAT HIDEMI USED WAS SUPPOSED TO BE USED BY KUMAKURA.
IT SEEMS THAT THEY SWITCHED PARACHUTES RIGHT BEFORE THEY JUMPED.
THIS IS WHERE THE RUMOR GETS WEIRD..
THE PERSON WHO FOLDED THE PARACHUTE KUMAKURA WAS SUPPOSED TO USE...
WAS, ACCORDING TO THE RUMOR, NOMAKI.
THE TWO MALFUNCTIONS THAT OCCURRED WOULDN'T NORMALLY BE ABLE TO HAPPEN.
IN OTHER WORDS, NOMAKI SABOTAGED KUMAKURA'S PARACHUTE SO HE'D HAVE AN ACCIDENT.

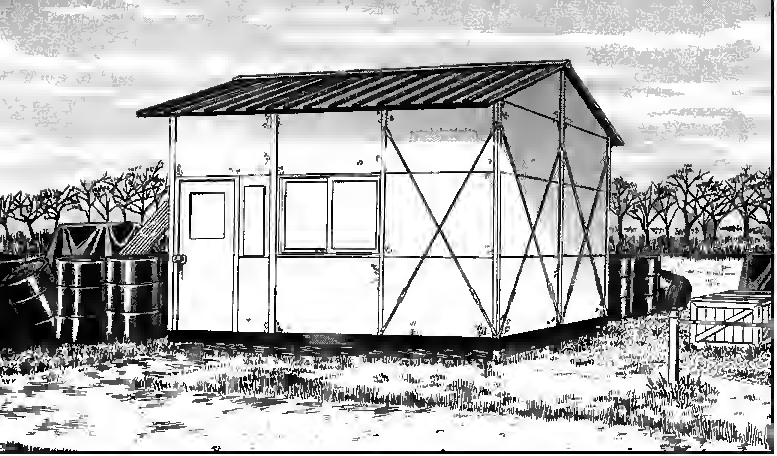
HOWEVER, THE ONE WHO DIED WAS INSTEAD TSUJI-SAN.
THEN, HE WANTED TO MAKE TSUJI-SAN HIS OWN.

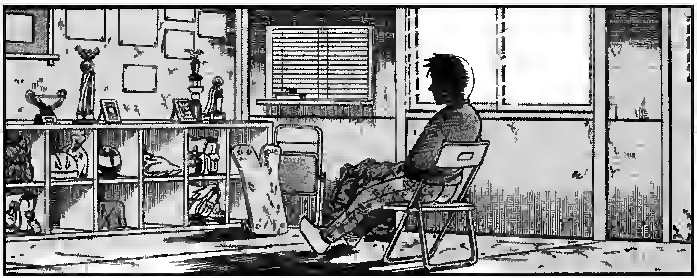
THAT HER GHOST...
NOMAKI
STABBED NOMAKI.

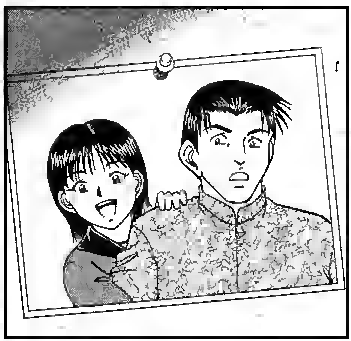

AH, BUT IT'S ONLY A RUMOR.
HOW AWFUL!

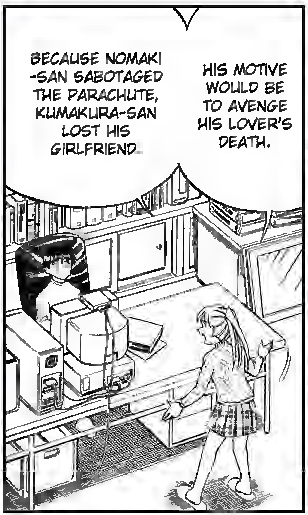

THERE'S NO EVIDENCE.

BUT NOW THIS RUMOUR IS ALSO SPREADING.





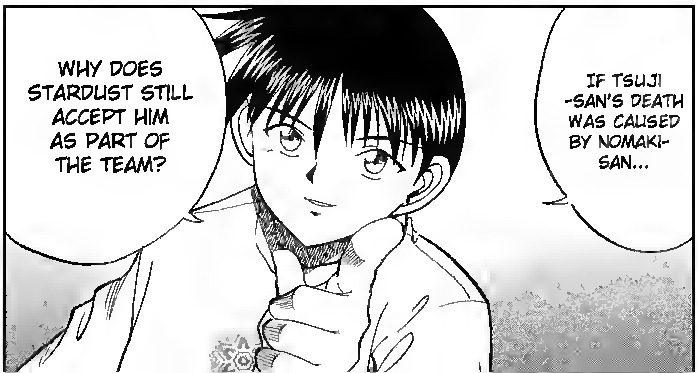



BECAUSE NOMAKI -SAN SABOTAGED THE PARACHUTE, KUMAKURA-SAN LOST HIS GIRLFRIEND.
HIS MOTIVE WOULD BE TO AVENGE HIS LOVER'S DEATH.

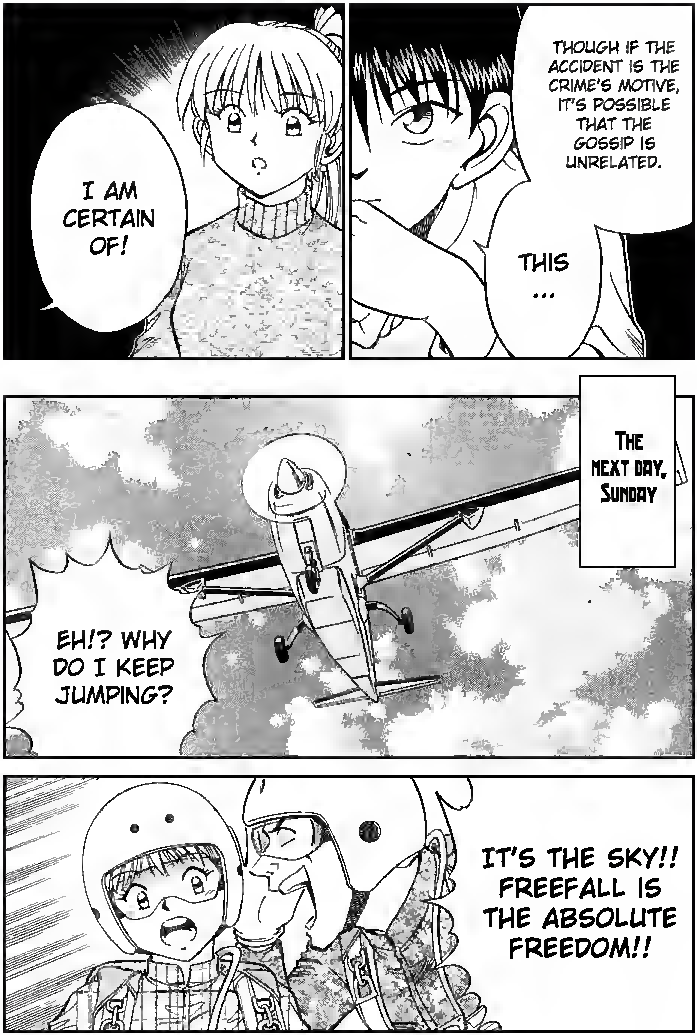
THE POLICE SUSPECT MOROKAWA -SAN, BUT...
WITH THIS, KUMAKURA-SAN ALSO BECOMES SUSPICIOUS.

IN THAT CASE, I'VE GOT A QUESTION ..

I SEE...

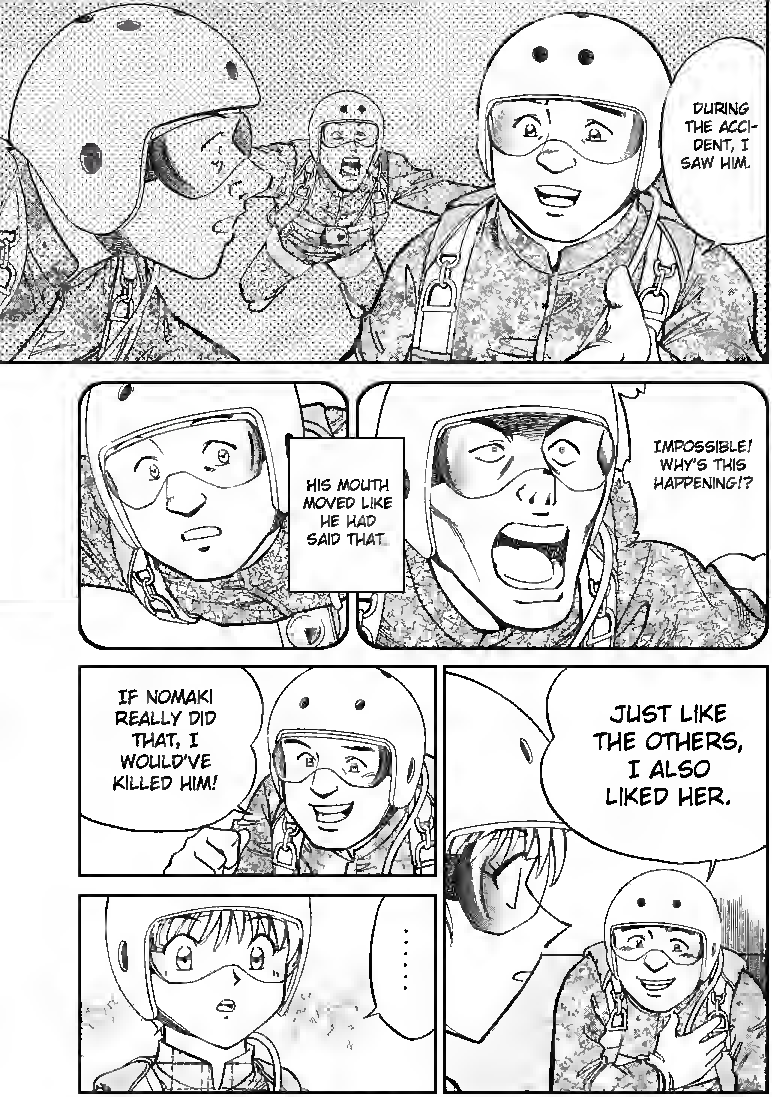

WHY DOES STARDUST STILL ACCEPT HIM AS PART OF THE TEAM?
IF TSUJI -SAN'S DEATH WAS CAUSED BY NOMAKI-SAN...

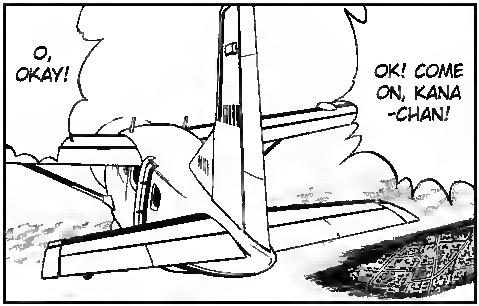
W-WELL, MAYBE THAT'S... BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF EVIDENCE...
I SEE. THAT'S A GOOD LINE OF THOUGHT.
I WOULDN'T BE JOKING IF I SAID THAT THEY ARE COMPANIONS THROUGH LIFE AND DEATH ALIKE.
EH?
IT'S TRUE THAT IF THE SABOTAGED PARACHUTE WAS OPENED ONCE, THE EVIDENCE WOULD DISAPPEAR.
IF IT HAD REMAINED, IT WOULD'VE BECOME DECISIVE EVIDENCE.
?
IT MEANS THAT THE GOSSIP IS IRRELEVANT...
BUT WITHOUT ANY SUSPICION, THEY STILL ACCEPT HIM AS PART OF THE TEAM...
IT IS TRUE THAT NOMAKI-SAN WAS KILLED ON THE SAME DAY AS LAST YEAR'S ACCIDENT... I DON'T THINK THAT IS ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL.
BU, BUT...

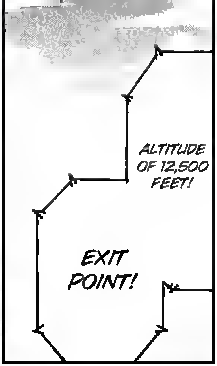

I AM CERTAIN OF!
THOUGH IF THE ACCIDENT IS THE CRIME'S MOTIVE, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE GOSSIP IS UNRELATED.
THIS ...
THE NEXT DAY, SUNDAY
EH!? WHY DO I KEEP JUMPING?
IT'S THE SKY!! FREEFALL IS THE ABSOLUTE FREEDOM!!

BECAUSE WE USE EARPLUGS TO PROTECT OUR EARS, WE CAN'T HEAR EACH OTHER UNLESS WE'RE YELLING.
UUH ...
HA HA HA HA HA!!
EH!? ME!?
HOWAKI-SAN, WHY DO YOU JUMP!?
HA HA HA... THAT'S A SECRET!
ME, HUH!? A CERTAIN HORRIBLE SENIOR NAMED MOROKAWA DRAGGED ME INTO THIS WORLD.
MOROKAWA-SAN, I HEARD THE STORY ABOUT TSUJI-SAN'S ACCIDENT A YEAR AGO!
WHY ARE YOU STILL DOING IT!?

IT'S ALL NONSENSE!
DON'T LISTEN TO THAT STUPID STORY!!
THERE'S A RUMOUR SAYING THAT NOMAKI-SAN WAS INVOLVED IN THE ACCIDENT!
EVEN AS A JOKE, FOR HIM TO SOMEHOW SABOTAGE A PARACHUTE THAT A SKYDIVER'S LIFE DEPENDED ON?
IF HE HAD DONE THAT, I WOULD'VE DEALT WITH HIM!
NOMAKI DIDN'T DO THINGS LIKE THAT.
KNOCK KNOCK


DURING THE ACCIDENT, I SAW HIM.
HIS MOUTH MOVED LIKE HE HAD SAID THAT.
IMPOSSIBLE! WHY'S THIS HAPPENING!?
IF NOMAKI REALLY DID THAT, I WOULD'VE KILLED HIM!
JUST LIKE THE OTHERS, I ALSO LIKED HER.
.....


O, OKAY!
OK! COME ON, KANA -CHAN!

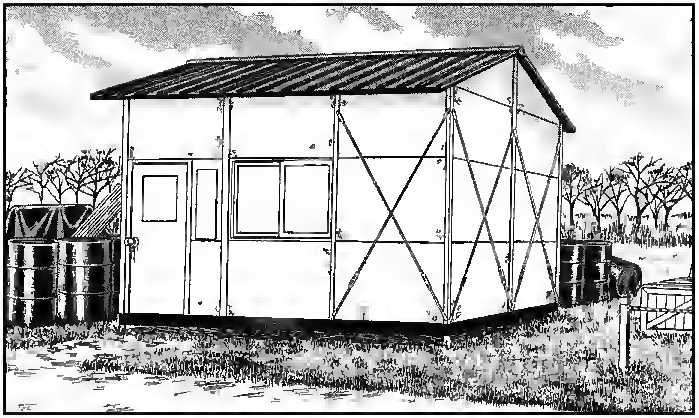

ALTITUDE OF 12,500 FEET!
EXIT POINT!

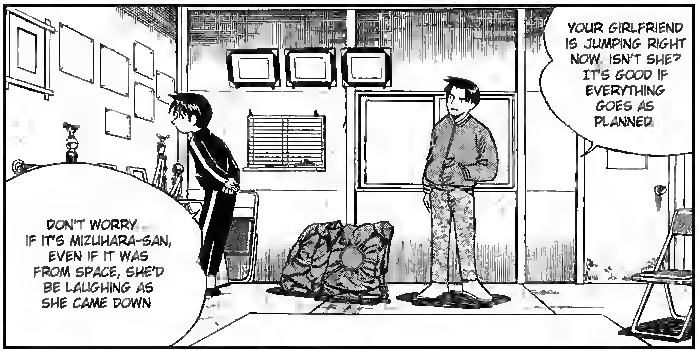
WUAAA...
SO... HIGH!
UP!
DOWN!

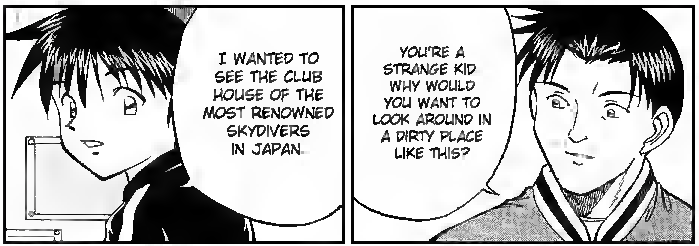
GOOOOOO!

WELL THEN, FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ARE JUMPING NEXT SATURDAY, PLEASE GO REGISTER AT THE RECEPTION DESK.
WHEN IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME, THE TIMING IS ANNOUNCED FROM THE GROUND, BUT
FLARE IS PULLING THE BRAKES WHEN LANDING.
TRY TO FEEL THE TIMING WITH YOUR BODIES AS WELL AS YOU CAN.
EH?
MY INTUITION WAS OFF, HUH...? YOU'RE STILL HANGING ON?

BY TEACHING A NUMBER OF STUDENTS LIKE THIS...
I CAN TELL WHICH OF YOU GET COLD FEET BEFORE ACTUALLY JUMPING.
FROM MY OBSERVATION, YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.
HA HA HA... IS THAT SO?
I HAD A BAD FEELING, SO I CAME BACK HERE AGAIN.
AT THAT TIME, I FELT THAT I HAD TO JUMP NO MATTER WHAT.
I SEE. 'HAD TO JUMP'... HUH?
I CAN RELATE TO THAT KIND OF DRIVE MORE THAT JUST 'WANTING TO JUMP'.

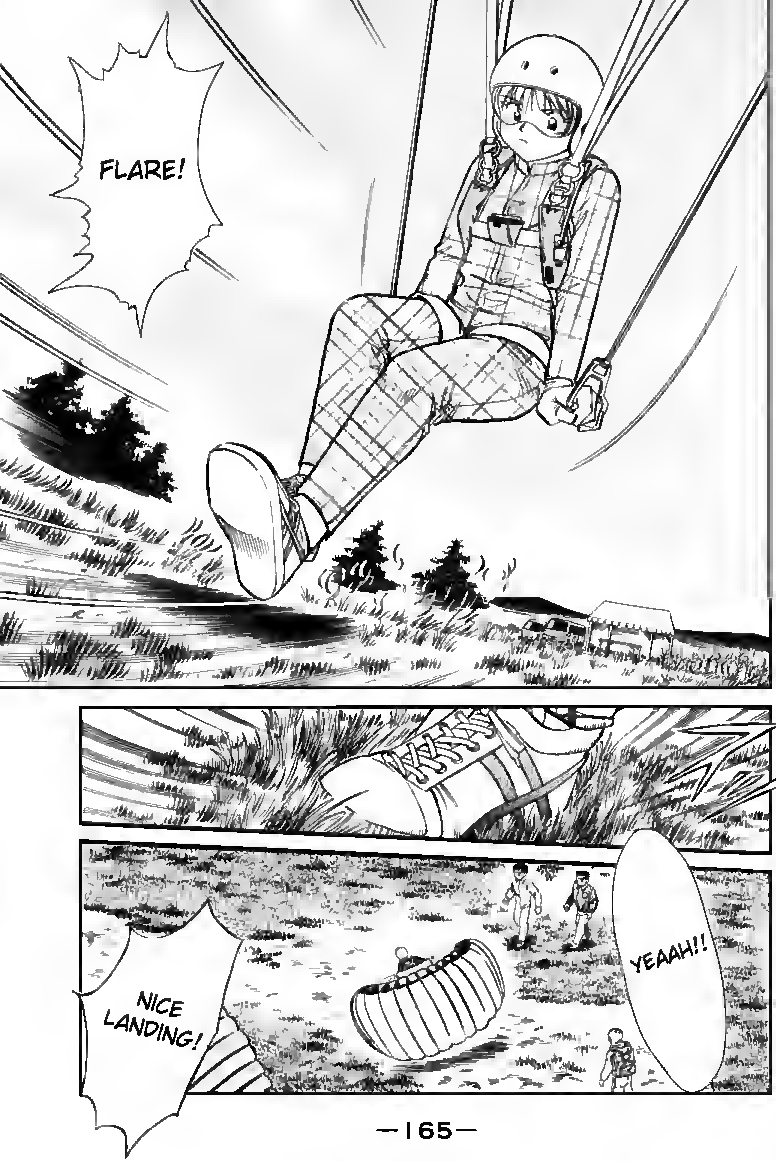



YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS JUMPING RIGHT NOW, ISN'T SHE? IT'S GOOD IF EVERYTHING GOES AS PLANNED.
DON'T WORRY... IF IT'S MIZUHARA-SAN, EVEN IF IT WAS FROM SPACE, SHE'D BE LAUGHING AS SHE CAME DOWN.

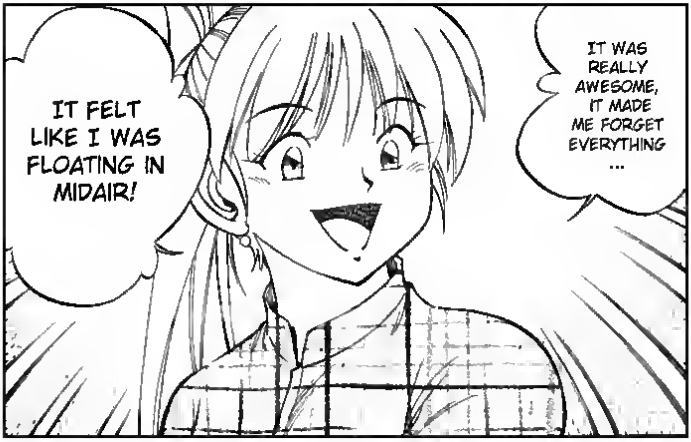

I WANTED TO SEE THE CLUB HOUSE OF THE MOST RENOWNED SKYDIVERS IN JAPAN.
YOU'RE A STRANGE KID WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO LOOK AROUND IN A DIRTY PLACE LIKE THIS?

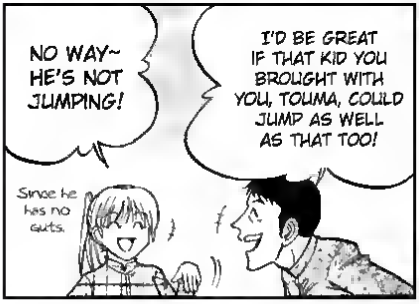
ARE THE PARACHUTES ALWAYS FOLDED HERE?
YES ...
THAT'S A PHOTO-GRAPH OF MY LATE GIRL-FRIEND.
.....
DUE TO MY LAPSE IN JUDG-MENT...
I'M THE ONE WHO CAUSED HER TO DIE,

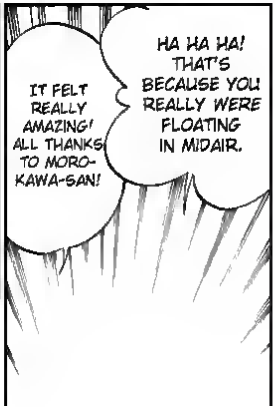
THE PHOTO IS A REMINDER, SO THAT I WILL NEVER MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN
I SHOULD'VE MADE HER COMPENSATE FOR THE ERROR BY MANIPULATING THE 'CHUTE
THE MAIN PARACHUTE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN DISCARDED... ALSO, THERE WASN'T ENOUGH ALTITUDE.
YOU HAVE TO JUMP FOR HER SAKE, RIGHT?
KUMA-KURA-SAN...
YEAH ...


FLARE!
YEAAH!!
NICE LANDING!

REALLY?
EXCELLENT! EXCELLENT! THAT KIND OF FIRST JUMP SHOULD BE FRAMED AND HUNG IN AN ART GALLERY!


IT FELT LIKE I WAS FLOATING IN MIDAIR!
IT WAS REALLY AWESOME, IT MADE ME FORGET EVERYTHING ...


NO WAY~ HE'S NOT JUMPING!
I'D BE GREAT IF THAT KID YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU, TOUMA, COULD JUMP AS WELL AS THAT TOO!
Since he has no guts.

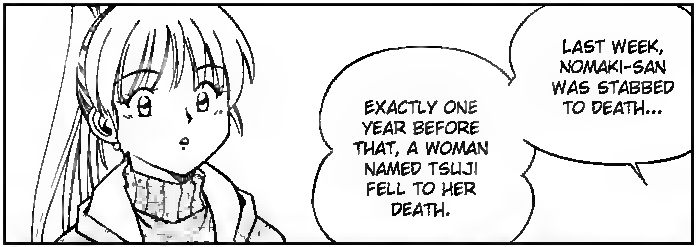

IT FELT REALLY AMAZING! ALL THANKS TO MORO-KAWA-SAN!
HA HA HA! THAT'S BECAUSE YOU REALLY WERE FLOATING IN MIDAIR.

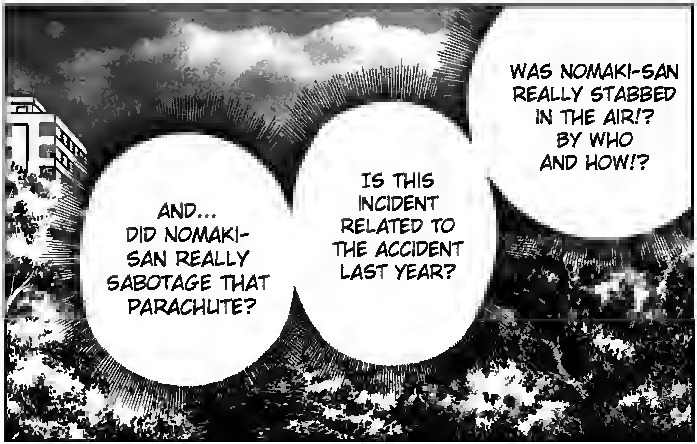
EH?
BUT HE REGISTERED TO JUMP NEXT WEEK.
WHAT MADE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?
WAS IT BECAUSE YOUR SPIRIT THROBBED WITH LOVE FOR HIGH PLACES?
....
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT PAY PHONE?
MAKING A CALL.

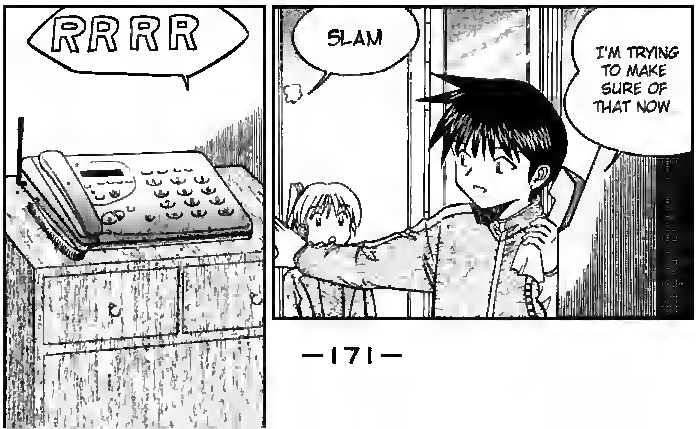
AND COVERING IT UP WITH A HAND-KERCHIEF CHANGES MY VOICE . . .
EH?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT... YOU HAVE YOUR CELL PHONE!
BUT IF MY NUMBER SHOWS UP ON HIS PHONE'S CALL DISPLAY, HE'LL FIGURE OUT WHO'S CALLING.
THIS IS THE FINAL TEST.
NO.
WHAT? ARE YOU PULLING A PRANK? WHAT A BAD HOBBY.
THIS IS MORO-KAWA.
YES,
One, two one, two!
CLICK
RRRR

A YEAR AGO, NOMAKI-SAN SABOTAGED KUMAKURA-SAN'S PARA-CHUTE ...
HN? WHO IS THIS!?
MOROKAWA -SAN.... I SAW IT
YOU IDIOT!! AS IF SKYDIVERS WOULD DO SUCH A THING!! IF YOU HAVE THE SPARE TIME TO MAKE USELESS PRANK CALLS, LISTEN TO THE NEWS REPORTS!!
YESTERDAY, I WENT TO STARDUST'S CLUB HOUSE.
BESIDES, HOW DID YOU GET THAT PHONE NUMBER?
CLICK
I STOLE A GLANCE AT THE MEMBERS' LIST AND MEMORIZED THEIR PHONE NUMBERS.
HEY! THAT'S NO JOKING MATTER!

UOWAKI -SAN?
YES, UOWAKI!
RRRR
WHAT A RIDICULOUS PHONE CALL!
IDIOTIC! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!
I SAW IT. ONE YEAR AGO, NOMAKI-SAN SABOTAGED KUMAKURA-SAN'S PARACHUTE...
AS I SAID, THIS IS A TEST.
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING!?
CLICK


LAST WEEK, NOMAKI-SAN WAS STABBED TO DEATH...
EXACTLY ONE YEAR BEFORE THAT, A WOMAN NAMED TSUJI FELL TO HER DEATH.


WAS NOMAKI-SAN REALLY STABBED IN THE AIR!? BY WHO AND HOW!?
IS THIS INCIDENT RELATED TO THE ACCIDENT LAST YEAR?
AND... DID NOMAKI-SAN REALLY SABOTAGE THAT PARACHUTE?


RRRR
SLAM
I'M TRYING TO MAKE SURE OF THAT NOW

ONE YEAR AGO, NOMAKI-SAN SABOTAGED YOUR PARACHUTE...
KUMAKURA-SAN, I SAW...
YES, KUMAKURA HERE!
IS THAT TRUE!? WHO THE HECK ARE YOU!?
HAAH
CLICK
E.N.D.
FUNCTION

A WEEK LATER, SATURDAY.
AIRPORT
CLICK
GOOD MORNING!
TAP
TAP

HA HA HA... BECAUSE THIS IS MY FIRST TIME, I'M NERVOUS.
YOU'RE PRETTY EARLY. I'M PREPARING THE PARACHUTES RIGHT NOW.
ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
IT'S AN HONOR THAT YOU CHOSE ME AS YOUR INSTRUCTOR.
IS THAT SO?
IT'S ABOUT THE ACCIDENT IN WHICH NOMAKI-SAN WAS KILLED.
HMM.. YOU WANT TO TALK WITH ME?
IT SEEMS THE POLICE SUSPECT MOROKAWA-SAN AS THE CULPRIT, AND IT GOT ME THINKING...
ASSUMING THAT MOROKAWA-SAN IS THE CULPRIT, WHY WOULD HE USE A METHOD THAT IMMEDIATELY LEAVES HIM EXPOSED?
WITH HIS WIRELESS RADIO, HE GATHERED EVERYONE AT THE CRIME SCENE, AND IN ADDITION, GAVE THE POLICE A TESTIMONY THAT NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE, SAYING THAT "NOMAKI-SAN WAS STABBED MIDAIR".

I SEE.
HE WOULD BE A MURDERER WHO, BY GIVING SUCH AN ABSURD TESTIMONY, CREATED A SITUATION WHERE ONLY HE COULD BE THE CULPRIT.
THAT WOULD BE VERY WEIRD.
IT DOES INDEED LOOK LIKE NOMAKI-SAN WAS STABBED IN MIDAIR
BUT WHAT IF MORO-KAWA-SAN'S TESTIMONY IS TRUE?
WHY?
BECAUSE THE CULPRIT *WANTED* TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE NOMAKI-SAN WAS STABBED IN MIDAIR.
THAT'S SIMPLE,
WANTED, NO MATTER WHAT, TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A "CERTAIN SOMEONE" STILL IN THE SKY STABBED NOMAKI-SAN...
THE CULPRIT ...
PULL
.....

HE WANTED TO MAKE IT SEEM LIKE SHE HAD SOUGHT REVENGE AND KILLED NOMAKI-SAN,
ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH.
THAT SOMEONE IS... TSUJI HIDEMI -SAN.
WOULD ANYONE KILL A PERSON FOR SUCH AN AMBIGUOUS REASON?
BUT NOMAKI BEING THE CAUSE OF HIDEMI'S DEATH IS JUST A RUMOR.
THE TEAM MEMBERS OTHER THAN THE MURDERER TRUSTED NOMAKI-SAN.
THAT'S TRUE, IT'S JUST CHEAP, BASELESS GOSSIP.
THAT'S THE REASON WHY STARDUST CONTINUED ACCEPTING NOMAKI-SAN.
CONVERSELY, IT COULD BE SAID THAT THE PERSON WHO MURDERED NOMAKI-SAN WAS THE PERSON WHO WAS CERTAIN THAT NOMAKI-SAN HAD SABOTAGED THE PARACHUTE.

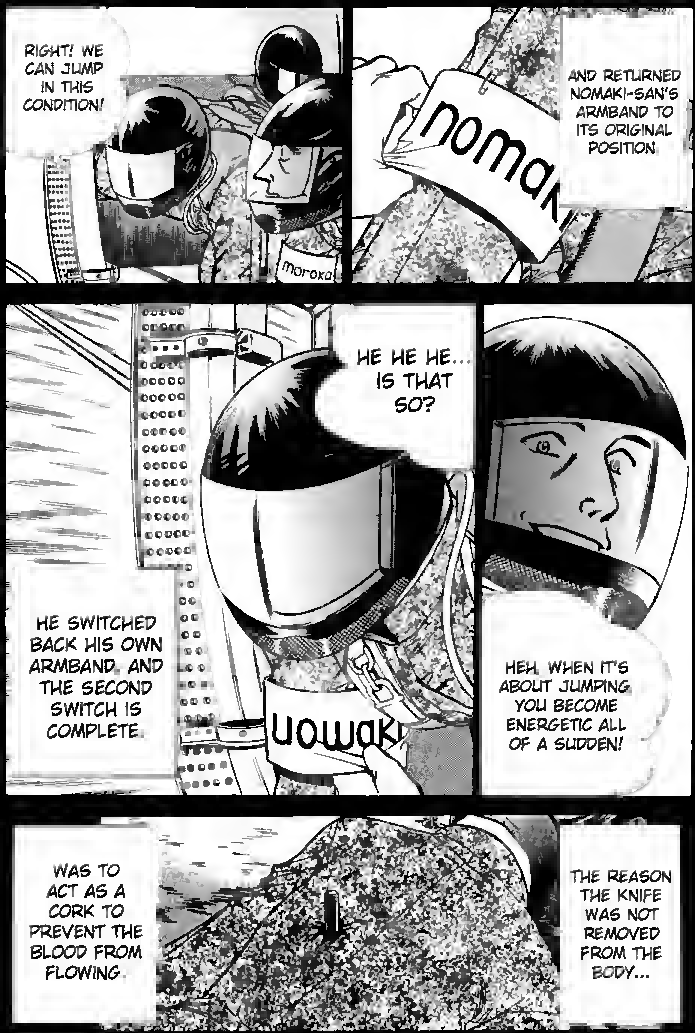
TSUJI-SAN'S PARACHUTE WAS INDEED OPENED AND ALL TRACES OF SABOTAGE WERE ERASED
THERE'S NO PROOF, RIGHT? SO HOW THE HECK WOULD THE CULPRIT BE ABLE TO BE CERTAIN THAT NOMAKI KILLED THE WOMAN?
WHAT A STRANGE STORY.
HOWEVER, THE CULPRIT WAS CERTAIN ENOUGH TO CARRY OUT THE MURDER!!
BESIDES THAT, THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY...
IN OTHER WORDS, THE CULPRIT SAW NOMAKI-SAN DO SOMETHING TO THE PARACHUTE...
THROUGH THE ONLY WINDOW IN THE CLUB HOUSE.

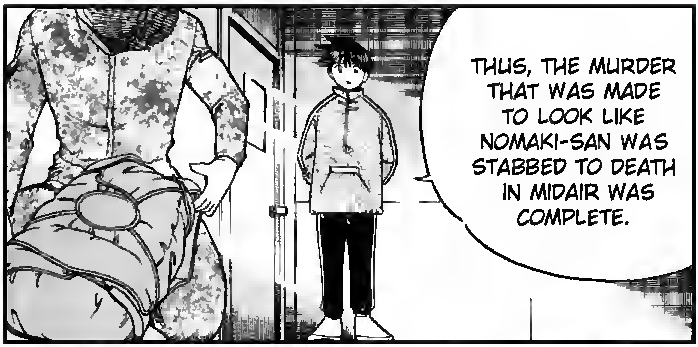
A FEW DAYS BACK, I CALLED STARDUST'S MEMBERS.
I SAID "I SAW NOMAKI-SAN SABOTAGE THE PARACHUTE"...
MORO-KAWA-SAN ANSWERED, "NOMAKI WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
KUMAKURA-SAN ASKED IN RETURN, "IS THAT TRUE?"
NEITHER OF THEM WERE CERTAIN THAT NOMAKI-SAN WAS THE ONE WHO DID IT.
BUT THERE WAS ONE PERSON WHO REPLIED "THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!"
"THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE."
"I SAW IT MYSELF THROUGH THE ONLY WINDOW."

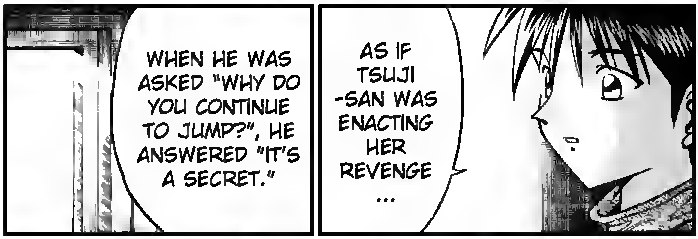
"THERE WASN'T ANYONE BESIDES ME WHO SAW."
"THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE" ...
TO THE EXTENT THAT HE WANTED TO GET EVEN WITH THE GUY WHO LET TSUJI-SAN DIE.
ACCORDING TO WHAT HE SAID HIMSELF, HE LIKED TSUJI-SAN,
HE KILLED NOMAKI-SAN WHEN THE TIME TO GET EVEN WITH HIM PRESENTED ITSELF.
THUMP
ARE YOU NERVOUS AGAIN?
SO HE WAITED FOR A YEAR, AND THE TIME CAME.

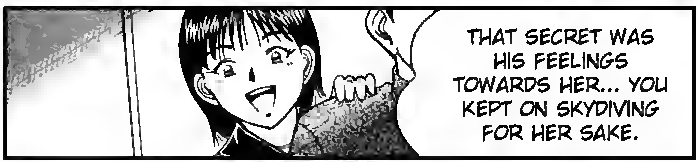
nomaki
THEN, HE SWITCHED PLACES WITH NOMAKI-SAN.
THE KNIFE STABBED IN HIS BACK WAS HIDDEN BY THE PARACHUTE.
uowaki
uowaki
BY FLIPPING THE ARMBAND UPSIDE DOWN.
DUE TO WEARING EARPLUGS FOR THE JUMP, MOROKAWA-SAN AND THE OTHERS DIDN'T NOTICE THE CHANGE IN VOICE.
IT'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
YOU SHOULD TRY CHEWING SOME GUM.
nomaki
THEN, THE CULPRIT POSED AS NOMAKI-SAN.

WAS THE ALREADY MURDERED NOMAKI-SAN
THE MURDERER WHO POSED AS NOMAKI-SAN AND. . NEXT TO HIM,
AND THEN IN THE AIR-PLANE,
THE CULPRIT MADE IT SEEM AS IF NOMAKI-SAN WAS STILL ALIVE
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
MOROKAWA -SAN AND KUMAKURA -SAN LOOKED OUTSIDE.
HOW ARE THE CLOUDS? CAN YOU SEE THE DROP ZONE?
AND AT THAT TIME HE SWITCHED THE SEATING POSITIONS.


RIGHT! WE CAN JUMP IN THIS CONDITION!
moroka
AND RETURNED NOMAKI-SAN'S ARMBAND TO ITS ORIGINAL POSITION.
noma
HE HE HE... IS THAT SO?
HE SWITCHED BACK HIS OWN ARMBAND, AND THE SECOND SWITCH IS COMPLETE.
uowaki
HEH, WHEN IT'S ABOUT JUMPING, YOU BECOME ENERGETIC ALL OF A SUDDEN!
WAS TO ACT AS A CORK TO PREVENT THE BLOOD FROM FLOWING.
THE REASON THE KNIFE WAS NOT REMOVED FROM THE BODY...


THUS, THE MURDER THAT WAS MADE TO LOOK LIKE NOMAKI-SAN WAS STABBED TO DEATH IN MIDAIR WAS COMPLETE.

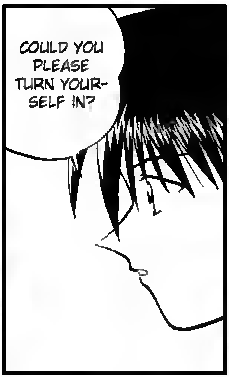

WHEN HE WAS ASKED "WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO JUMP?", HE ANSWERED "IT'S A SECRET."
AS IF TSUJI -SAN WAS ENACTING HER REVENGE ...
?


THAT SECRET WAS HIS FEELINGS TOWARDS HER... YOU KEPT ON SKYDIVING FOR HER SAKE.

THE ONE WHO MURDERED NOMAKI-SAN IS YOU.
?

HOWAKI MINORU-SAN...

I HAVEN'T TOLD THIS TO THE POLICE. COULD YOU PLEASE TURN YOURSELF IN VOLUNTARILY?


COULD YOU PLEASE TURN YOUR-SELF IN?

.....

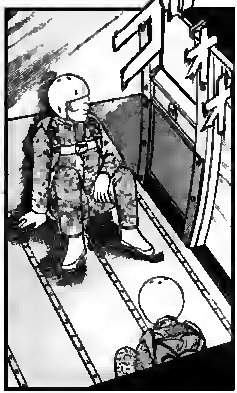
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS... YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE?
CLICK
IT'S TIME TO GET ON THE PLANE. PLEASE GET READY!
OK.

WHEN TSUJI-SAN'S PARACHUTE MALFUNCTIONED, YOU WERE LOOKING AT NOMAKI-SAN...
WHAT MADE YOU SUSPECT ME?
BUT WHY DID YOU IMMEDIATELY LOOK AT NOMAKI -SAN?
NORMALLY, ONE WOULD USUALLY LOOK TOWARDS TSUJI-SAN,
AND THEN YOU WERE READING HIS LIP MOVEMENTS.
WHY IS THIS HAPPEN-ING!?
THAT'S WHY YOU LOOKED AT NOMAKI -SAN THE MOMENT THE MALFUNCTION OCCURRED.
YOU SAW NOMAKI-SAN DO SOMETHING TO KUMAKURA-SAN'S PARACHUTE.

FROM THEN ON, YOU WERE CERTAIN THAT THE PARACHUTE HAD BEEN SABOTAGED.
"WHY IS TSUJI-SAN WEARING KUMAKURA -SAN'S PARACHUTE? WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?"
NOMAKI-SAN'S SHOUT HAD THIS KIND OF MEANING;
IT SEEMS THAT THIS WILL BE THE LAST DIVE.
LET'S GO.
HMM... I SEE.
WHAT? YOU CAN'T JUMP WITHOUT A PARACHUTE, CAN YOU?
.....

ブオオオオ

HOWEVER... ABOUT YOUR REASONING... I THINK YOU LACK DECISIVE EVIDENCE.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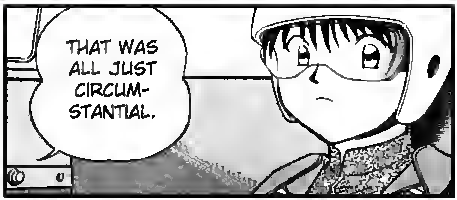
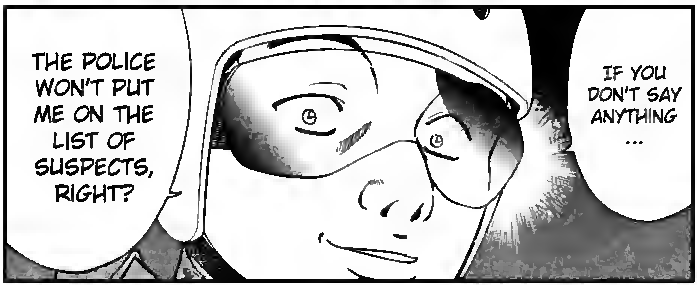
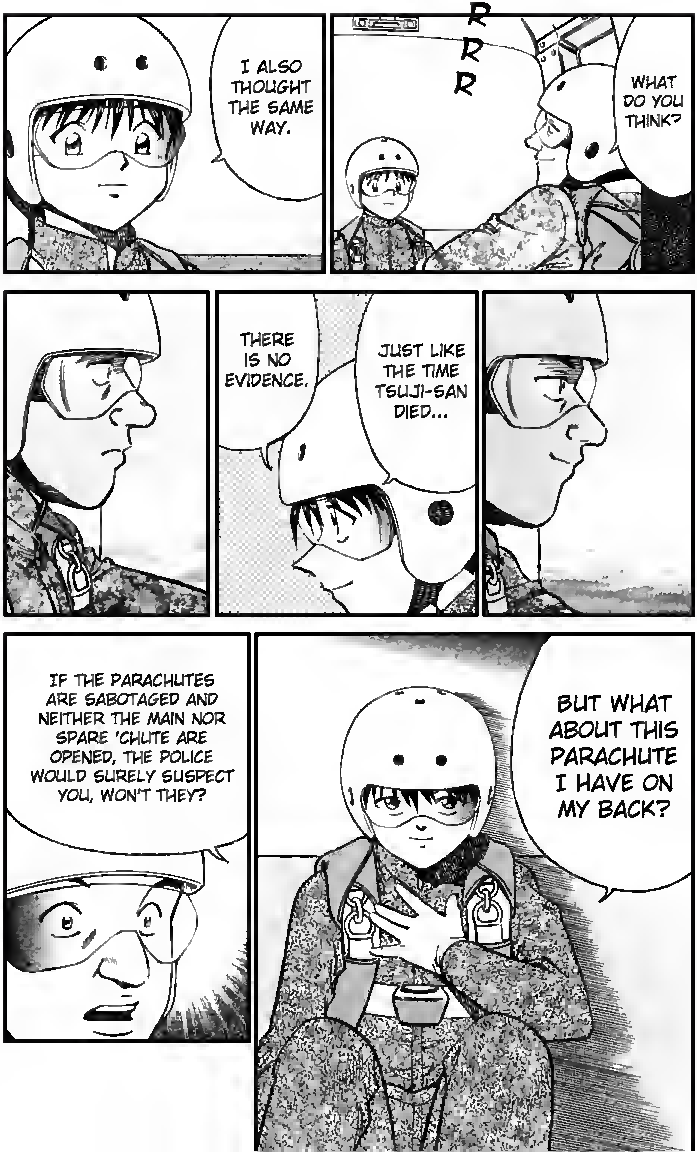

THAT WAS ALL JUST CIRCUM-STANTIAL.

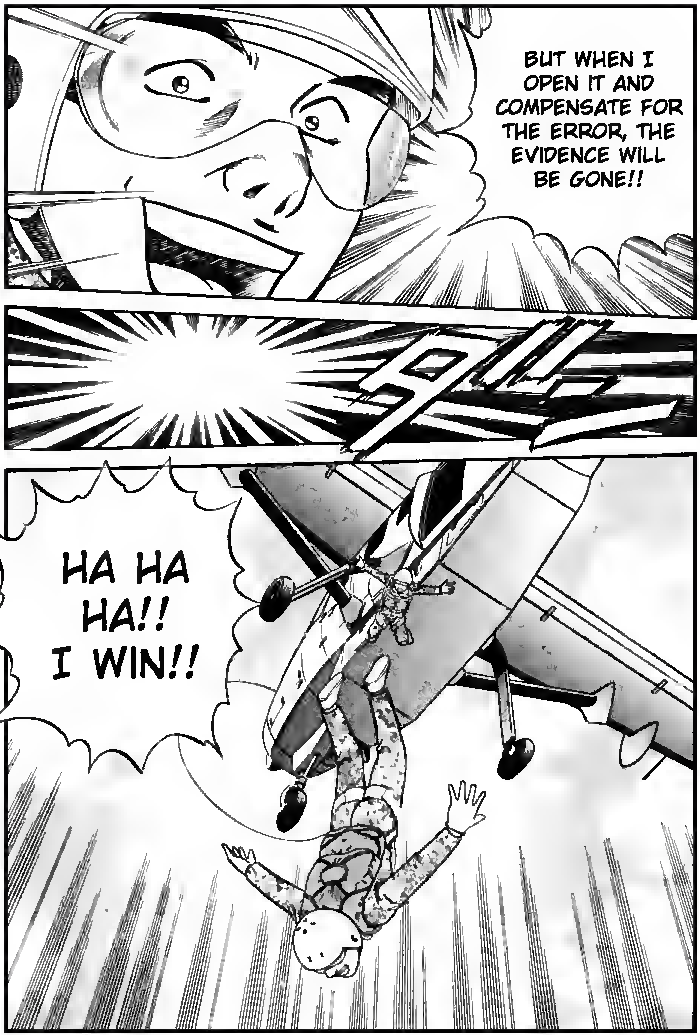

THE POLICE WON'T PUT ME ON THE LIST OF SUSPECTS, RIGHT?
IF YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING ...

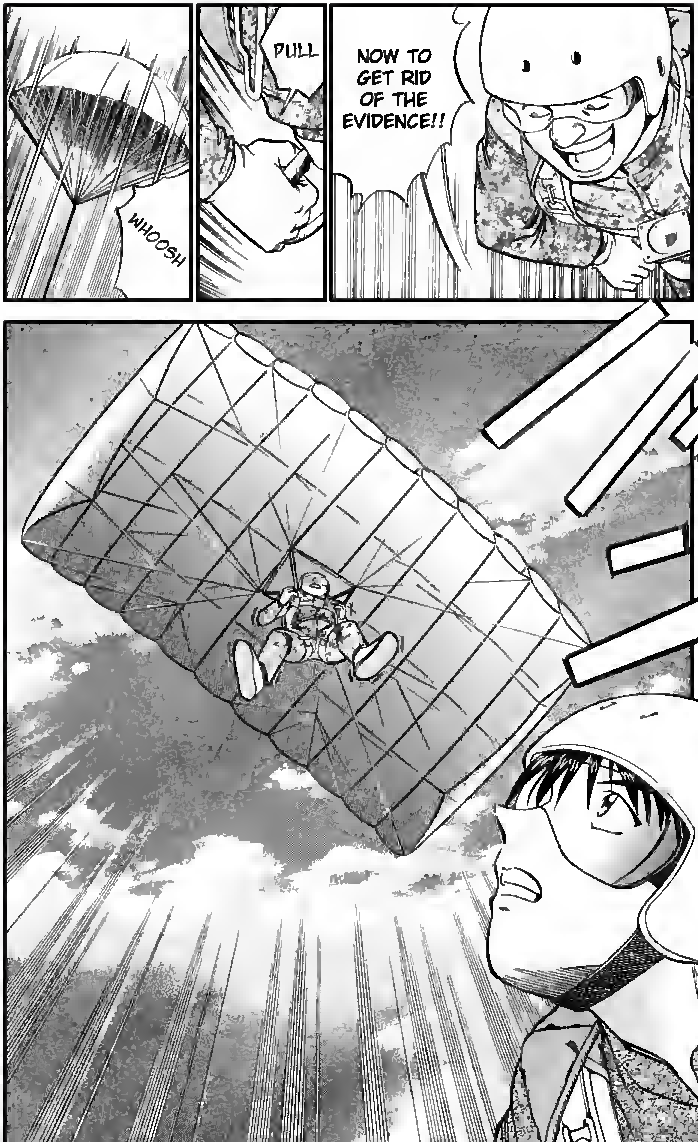

I ALSO THOUGHT THE SAME WAY.
RRRR
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THERE IS NO EVIDENCE.
JUST LIKE THE TIME TSUJI-SAN DIED...
IF THE PARACHUTES ARE SABOTAGED AND NEITHER THE MAIN NOR SPARE 'CHUTE ARE OPENED, THE POLICE WOULD SURELY SUSPECT YOU, WON'T THEY?
BUT WHAT ABOUT THIS PARACHUTE I HAVE ON MY BACK?

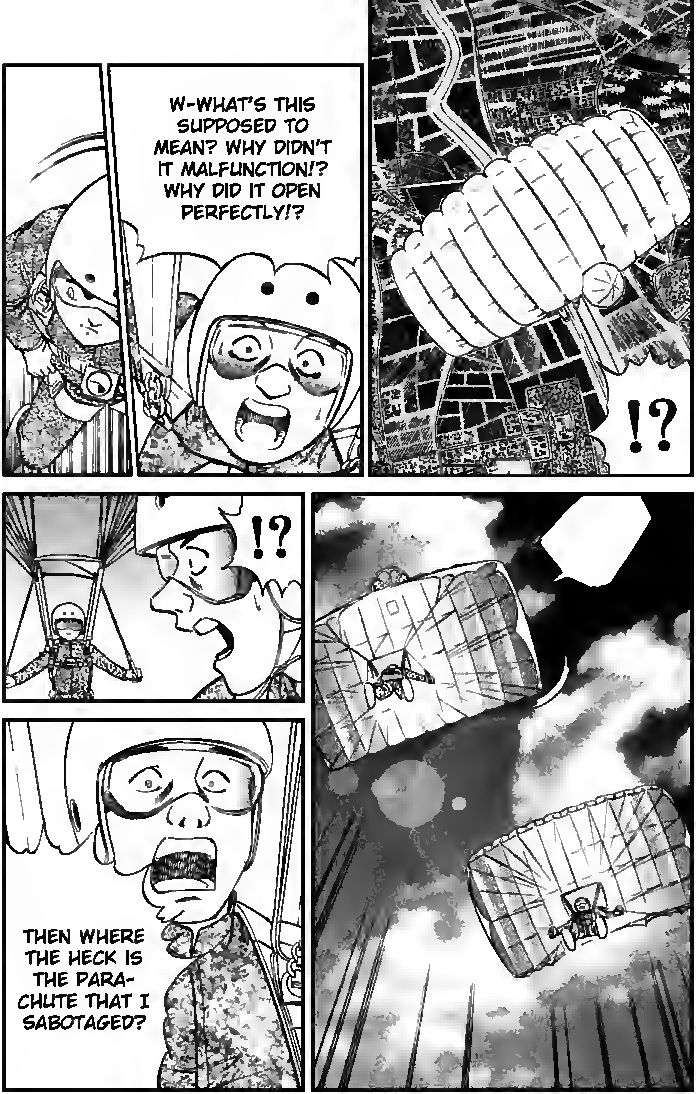
AND YOU WERE SEEN BY SOMEONE AT THE PLACE YOU WERE PACKING THIS PARACHUTE.
HA HA HA! YOU INTEND TO SACRIFICE YOUR LIFE TO OBTAIN EVIDENCE? HOW IDIOTIC!
THERE ARE NO GAMBLES WITHOUT RISK!
WE'LL HAVE EVIDENCE PROVING YOU TO BE THE CULPRIT, AND I WOULD WIN THIS GAMBLE!
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO ME,

DON'T WORRY! I'D NEVER DO THAT!
HA HA HA! I'M ALSO A SKYDIVER!
ALTITUDE OF 12,500 FEET!!
ENTERING THE EXIT POINT!!
ブオオ
HOW'S THAT!?
IF YOU'RE WORRIED, YOU CAN SWITCH YOUR PARACHUTES WITH MINE.
DECIDE QUICKLY!
LOOK! THE DROP ZONE IS COMING INTO VIEW
ドオオ

YA! WE'RE JUMPING!
HA HA HA! EVEN THOUGH YOU SAID YOU'D GAMBLE YOUR LIFE, YOU REALLY ARE SCARED AFTER ALL.
CLICK
WHAT A SHAME!
THEY TAUGHT YOU THIS DURING TRAINING AS WELL, RIGHT!?
A VETERAN CAN IMMEDIATELY COMPENSATE FOR A MALFUNCTION!
JUST LIKE YOU SAID, I SABOTAGED THIS PARACHUTE!


BUT WHEN I OPEN IT AND COMPENSATE FOR THE ERROR, THE EVIDENCE WILL BE GONE!!
BLL
HA HA HA!! I WIN!!


WHOOSH
PULL
NOW TO GET RID OF THE EVIDENCE!!

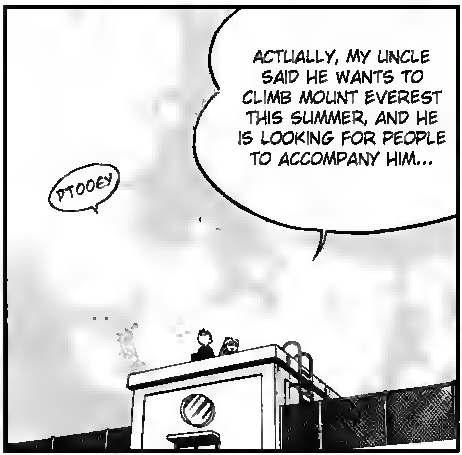

W-WHAT'S THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN? WHY DIDN'T IT MALFUNCTION!? WHY DID IT OPEN PERFECTLY!?
!?
!?
THEN WHERE THE HECK IS THE PARA-CHUTE THAT I SABOTAGED?

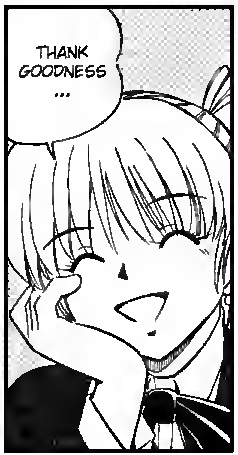
I SECRETLY SWITCHED THEM WHEN WE WERE ON THE GROUND.
WITH THIS, THE EVIDENCE IS ALSO GATHERED.
THUS CONCLUDES MY EXPLANATION.
OKAY! FLARE!

WELL, THERE WASN'T ANY OTHER WAY TO OBTAIN THE EVIDENCE,
PLEASE DON'T REMIND ME! I'M STILL SHIVERING!

WAAH! I HAVE A BETTER OPINION OF YOU NOW! YOU JUMPED.

YEAH... WELL...
AS A TOKEN OF MY APPRECIATION, I MADE YOU A LUNCH. IT'S GOOD, ISN'T IT?


ACTUALLY, MY UNCLE SAID HE WANTS TO CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST THIS SUMMER, AND HE IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO ACCOMPANY HIM...
PTOOEY


THANK GOODNESS ...

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●青の密室…マガジンGREAT 2000年3月号掲載

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Notes for Your Brain's Pleasure

p101

Dashimaki Tamaga: Dashi is a kind of soup stock made from fish and kelp; maki is a roll; and tamago is fried egg. Dashi is a homonym for a pretext or excuse, fittingly, as Kana uses this food as an excuse for forcing Sau to go skydiving with her.

p103

"Exit" position: refers specifically to to the location where the divers leave the aircraft and begin freefall.

http://www.dropzone.com/safety/resources/handbook/gloss2.shtml

p114

AAD (Automatic Activation Device): A mechanical or electronic device that automatically opens the main or reserve parachute at a set altitude as a back up for the user.

p115

Flare: The act of pulling down the brakes(lines) of a canopy (parachute) in order to slow it down, resulting in an increased angle to the wind as perceived by an observer, and a reduced descent rate.

http://www.kturby.com/skydive/terms.htm

Secret blue room: Part one

--Text Supplier: Lynossa--RAW cleaner: Gobi--
--Translator:revirrim--Proofreader: spiffybug--
--Typesetter and Quality Checker: ryuuyasha--

I wonder what will happen next?
Bungee jumping? Mountain climbing?

Thanks for Anzu & Draco 1988
for the raws

Orion Wave

Q.E.D

Secret blue room: Part two

--Text Supplier: Lynossa--RAW cleaner: Gobi--
--Translator:BamBam--Proofreader: Ritsu--
--Typesetter and Quality Checker: argentscarf--
--special thanks to Hecko and yasha--

Lazy... I don't feel like thinking of some funny caption, it's kind of hard for this part, anyway...

Please, please apply for a position so the ~~joke quality of the credit page will improve~~ releases will happen on time.

And another thing, there was a mistranslation in 12.1 p113, 4a. It says plane crash, but it's supposed to refer to Tsuji falling to her death.

THANKS FOR ANZU & DRACO 1988 FOR THE RAWS

Orion Wave

Q.E.D

SECRET BLUE ROOM: PART THREE

--Text Supplier and RAW cleaner: Lynossa--
--Translator: Saturn Beaver--Proofreader: Ritsu--
--Cleaner, Typesetter, QC: argentscarf--

BY THE POWER OF THE STAR... I HAVE THE POWER!

THANKS FOR ANZU & IRACO 1988 FOR THE RAWS

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Q.E.D

Secret Blue Room

colored by Eaton